Vol. XXIII, No. 8 October 1999

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

A Second Take On the Quake of '89

By Doug Konecky

"For the rest of our lives, we'll remember where we were when Mother Earth moved at 5:04 p.m. on the balmy evening of Oct. 17, 1989, setting off the most catastrophic California earthquake since 1906."

That is how reporter Jeff Kaliss began his story in the November 1989 *Noe Valley Voice*, describing the 7.1 Loma Prieta Earthquake, which occurred exactly 10 years ago this month. To commemorate the dubious anniversary of this event, the *Voice* decided to walk through Noe Valley in September 1999 and ask people if they really did remember what they'd been doing that night. We discovered several interesting facts:

In the first place, many stores that were doing business in 1989 are now gone. The rapid run-up of real-estate values that threatens to doom the folksy character of our once working-class neighborhood had not begun in earnest when the quake hit. Only about one in three stores on 24th Street 10 years ago are still around today, and many of the ones that remain are under different ownership.

Second, at least 10 million people remember being at the opening game of the 1989 World Series at Candlestick Park, a stadium that holds 55,000 people. Upon light pressure, several people admitted that maybe *they* hadn't been there, but their *brother* told them about it, or was it their brother's friend?

Third, everybody *loves* to talk about their earthquake experience. Our favorite recollection was from John Becker of Zephyr Real Estate. On Oct. 17, 1989, he was on the nude beach at Baker Beach, standing next to the shore. He felt the ground shake and then realized the shoreline was liquefying, gradually sinking him up to his knees in the sand. He looked up and saw palm trees waving back and forth. Becker's reaction to natural disaster was typical of many San Franciscans: "Wow! This is great!"

Misha Yagudin was playing poker in Emeryville. The lights went out, but nobody left the tables. As the ground shook, everyone's chips fell on the floor. Players dashed around gathering chips in the dark. When the quake was over, Yagudin had several dollars more than he'd started with.

Different people reacted in different ways. Panic and denial were popular. Jim Vlahakos, owner of Jim & Sons Produce at 24th and Church, was stocking his shelves when he noticed that the overhead light fixtures were shaking and the bottles of olive oil and juices that he had on a top shelf were falling onto the fruit bins below. Although he had experienced nasty earthquakes as a boy in Greece, Vlahakos panicked and ran out onto 24th Street, narrowly missing being run over by a truck.

When he told us this story, we looked up and remarked that Vlahakos still had the bottles on the same shelf on top of the fruit bins. "Oh, it probably won't happen again for a while," he said.

At Church Street Produce, Helen Winkler told us she was in I. Magnin on Union

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The earthquake that hit San Francisco 10 years ago this month caused only minor damage in Noe Valley. However, it broke several storefront windows and cracked the brick facade of this apartment building at 1378–80 Church St. (near 26th Street). *Photo by Sally Smith*

Grumbles and Groans Greet Mayor's Race

By Jim Christie

If we had to pick one word to describe what Noe Valley voters feel about their choices in the upcoming mayoral election, it would be "disappointment."

Disappointment over the politicians' failure to crack such problems as homelessness, Muni inefficiency, the housing shortage, traffic gridlock, and rampant business growth—all of which are lowering the quality of life in this increasingly congested city. But even more, disappointment over the candidates' lack of vision for San Francisco as it enters the new millennium.

The *Voice* recently polled a cross-section of Noe Valleyans, to find out if any of the frontrunners — Willie Brown, Frank Jordan, or Clint Reilly—had captured their enthusiasm. What we got instead was a collective sigh of resignation. Almost no one is looking forward to casting their ballots on Nov. 2.

Ruth Asawa, a children's activist and founder of the Alvarado Arts Program, said, "I'm not impressed with any of the candidates. Politicians do what is good for them. They just get in the way of making things happen."

Strongly echoing those sentiments was Miriam Blaustein, a longtime resident and former head of the Friends of Noe Valley. "I'm not happy with any of them," she said. "One of my pet peeves is the invasion of chain stores into the neighbor-

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Noe Gets in the Spirit of Halloween

By Pat Rose

The month of goblins and ghosts, candy and costumes, is upon us. When it comes to Halloween and kids, there's no better place than Noe Valley.

On Saturday, Oct. 9, the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association will kick off the celebration with a free old-fashioned hayride down 24th Street. The horsedrawn wagon will pick up riders at Walgreen's at Castro and 24th, and trot them around town from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Passengers will be driven down 24th Street to Vicksburg, south on Vicksburg to Jersey, then back up to Walgreen's. The hayride is part of the Merchants' annual sidewalk sale, also on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Also on Oct. 9, the Randall Museum will host its free annual "Bat Day" from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Children are invited to make bat masks, play bat games, create bat mobiles and puppets, and even dress up like bats and hang upside down! Live bats as well as bat experts will be on hand to explain how bats live, grow, and be-

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Expect to see hordes of *Star Wars* characters stopping traffic on 24th Street on Sunday, Oct. 31. It's an ancient neighborhood rite: These kids from St. Philip's School paraded across 24th at Sanchez for Halloween in 1990. *Photo by Pamela Gerard*

Slowing slightly in its anxious journey to the corner of Church and 24th Street, a J-line streetcar yields to an auto entering the civilization known as Noe Valley. *Photo by Jack Tipple*

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LETTERS 33¢

Somewhere Over the Rainbow

Editor:

I'm here at my computer with a tear in my eye having just read your touching obit for the neighborhood's most celebrated pooch ["Boychik Goes to Dog Heaven," September *Voice* 1999].

As I take a deep breath and look out into my garden, I think how glad I am to be back in Noe Valley. I was on the road all summer. Away from my little house, my husband, my cats, my friends and neighbors. That old saying about absence making the heart grow fonder is so true. At last, I'm home again enjoying my favorite newspaper over a cup of coffee. Of course, being a sentimental fool, I went right to the Boychik obit... and well, that's where we are.

In my travels, I had the opportunity to reflect on what it means to be not just a Californian or a San Franciscan, but to be from Noe Valley. In Philadelphia (one of the stops on my trip), I was chatting with a woman from North Carolina, and naturally the subject of San Francisco came up. When she asked exactly where I lived and I replied "Noe Valley," she exclaimed, "Oh, I just *love* Noe Valley!"

Of course, our conversation took quite a turn as we engaged in chatter about the wonders of what I call my Left Coast Brigadoon. I felt proud and happy that my "'hood" was known in such a far-flung corner of America. (She had discovered us on her frequent business trips.)

Yesterday, being home less than a week and digging out from under three months of paperwork, I finally ventured out to look around. I was astonished by all the visible changes on 24th Street just since June! A bit saddened too, I have to admit.

When I arrived here in 1984, things were so different. Even the first big changes I witnessed — the loss of Glen Five & Ten and the corner drugstore at 24th and Castro — seemed to come at a slower pace. Now, one minute 24th Street looks one way, and a few days later, voilà, something completely different. It's all part of the information age, I guess. The millennium generation doesn't seem to be long on patience. (Isn't that what "older folks" always say?)

Anyway, I shrugged that off as I walked down the street seeing familiar faces and exchanging pleasantries with shopkeepers. "So what," said I, "it's still Noe Valley!"

There's no place in the city I'd rather live. I even missed the fog while I was gone, and if you know me, you know that's a real stretch. There's just a magical quality about this place, and I feel very lucky to be here.

Home at last to a new fall season, my first one without my beloved Singing Rainbow [Youth Ensemble], so a very different one for me. By the way, I want to thank everyone in the neighborhood who ever came to one of our shows, donated prizes, sang with us, bought our tapes, wrote about us, or supported our efforts in any way. The whole 12 years was a great experience for me. My special thanks to all the wonderful youngsters who made the Rainbow sing so beautifully.

As I move on to the next chapter, I hear Glinda the Good Witch whisper in my ear, "There's no place like Noe Valley."

Candace "Candy" Forest
Diamond Street

NOE VALLEY PROGRESS

Board Members Get Vacation Spirit; Quiet Day Ensues

A Board That Should Be Elective

Remodeling Shows Progress

Editor:

Enclosed is a wrinkled front page *(see graphic above)* from the *Noe Valley Progress* of 1939 — 60 years ago. While remodeling my bathroom earlier this year, we discovered that newspapers from 1936 to 1939 (hopefully the work didn't take that long!) had been used to insulate the central heating system. Many literally crumbled upon removal, but this one held up and I decided to forward it to you. Check out the rentals, for sure!

Mary O'Tousa
22nd Street

Off-Leash Dogs a Nuisance at Upper Noe

Editor:

I'd like to make a couple of points about the caption for the "Dogs Bound for Glory" photo in the September 1999 issue.

The caption implied that kids usually win in disputes involving dogs and children. Unfortunately, this has not been the case with the athletic field at Upper Noe Rec Center on Day Street. The preschool programs have not been using the field as they always have for parachute games,

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Voice Mail

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send e-mail to **jaxvoice@aol.com.** Please include your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) You can also send us mail via our web site: **www.noevalleyvoice.com.** The site has current stories and Class Ads, and archives dating from 1996.

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Yes on B Fire/Police Retirement Benefits

Yes on C Supervisorial District Boundaries

Yes on D Sick Leave/Vacation Credit Transfers

Yes on E Municipal Transportation Agency Reform

Yes on F ATM Fees

End double dipping at ATMs. Charging twice for the same service is wrong, and banks must end this anti-consumer practice.

Yes on G Sunshine Ordinance

By making city meetings and records more accessible, Prop. G will save millions of tax dollars. Visit www.sunshinesf.com on the Web for more information.

Yes on H Downtown Caltrain Station

Yes on K Campaign Expenditure Limits

Yes on I

Octavia Boulevard Plan

BUILD THE BOULEVARD. It's cheaper, safer and faster. Allows for 900 units of new housing and $30 million for transit improvements.

No on J

Central Freeway Replacement

Reject the failed traffic plan that would double the width of the freeway.

The Noe Valley Democratic Club meets on the second Wednesday of every month.

Call the NVDC at 821-4087 or check the calendar pages of the *Noe Valley Voice* for time, location and topic information.

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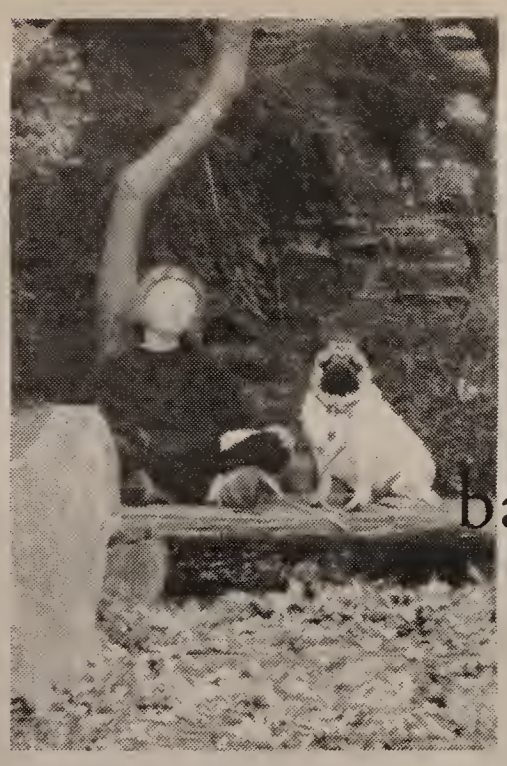
Climbing the stairs is no longer hairy on Harry Street, thanks to a renovation of the steps by neighbors and city work crews. *(See letter from Daniel Oppenheim.)* *Photo by Charles Kennard*



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LETTERS

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Easter egg hunts, and other fun. The director feels the field is unhealthy due to the dramatic increase in its use by off-leash dogs over the past few years.

Two springs ago, there was no baseball at Upper Noe because the field was so bad due to the destructive digging on the field. It took a major effort by the Rec & Park gardeners to prepare the field this spring. In fact, most of the early practices were held elsewhere. Anyone who has had their child's ball chased, or a child chased, doesn't feel like a winner. Neither does the parent whose child has stepped in dog shit or come home smelling like dog urine feel good either. Besides, is there anything wrong with children winning?

The second point is about the compromise on the hours. Since 6 to 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. to closing are the primary hours for the bulk of the current off-leash use (and remember it is illegal to have a dog off-leash at this park, in violation of Section 41.12 of the Health Code), I fail to see how this is a compromise. Dog owners are asking for what they are doing already. Rather than compromise, what happened at the July 22 meeting of the Upper Noe Neighbors was that a moribund organization was revived by a surge in membership of dog owners who paid $10 per person to have a vote and create the appearance of a "majority."

A real compromise might be a fenced-off section of the field, but this was rejected by dog owners at an Upper Noe Advocates meeting on Sept. 7, attended by the mayor and Rec & Park chief Joel Robinson.

The bottom line, the commonsense line, and the line that most parents, caregivers, and children believe is this: Off-leash dogs and athletic playing fields do not mix. Dog owners need to please obey the law at Upper Noe and expend their efforts on getting the city to give them off-leash space elsewhere in the neighborhood. Then you can rightly print "Dogs Bound for Glory!"

Georgia Schuttish
Duncan Street

Harry Street: Stairway of Successes

Editor:

It is with great pleasure that I report to you the excellent accomplishments of a special contingent of city workers. These gentlemen—and one lady—practice their trade for the Department of Public Works. All too often the efforts of such individuals go unsung. Not this time.

I am a homeowner on Harry Street, a block-long set of stairs in the outer regions of Noe Valley (Fairmount Heights to be exact: near where Noe meets Laidley Street). Harry Street has achieved worldwide acclaim for its natural splendor in a truly bucolic setting. *The Bay Guardian* voted it the top stairway in the city, and the Harry Steps were featured on the cover of *Stairway Walks of San Francisco*, a book by Adah Bakalinsky.

I have lived here for five years, and have worked hard organizing the neighbors, writing grants, installing irrigation, landscaping, and even tending to our now 20-foot-high banana trees! It is truly a joy to live in this little slice of heaven.

Until recently, some of the wooden stairs (of which there are 258 in total) were rotting and in need of repair. We asked for and received the assistance of the Department of Public Works. They came to view the area, agreed on its unique nature, and accepted to undertake a thoughtful restoration of the structure.

The results have been stunning, and on Sept. 2 the neighbors held a "ribbon-cutting" ceremony attended by Mayor Willie Brown and other city workers, to celebrate the beautification of Harry Street.

The stair repair was not an easy assignment, as material-handling was a major obstacle (imagine hauling 4 x 4 posts and 60-pound bags of concrete up and down 130 stairs!). Not only did the DPW employees approach their work with professionalism, they did so with great spirit. Always conscious of public safety during the work, they took extra time to create a safe and functional bypass for pedestrian use. They were also highly attentive to keeping the area clean on a daily basis. A fantastic job by some fantastic people!

We would like you to know the names of the good people who played a role in this success story: Joe Ovadia, in charge of planning and funding; Wayne Antoine, foreman; Timothy P. Byrne, Dave Yip, and Gary Gualco, carpenters; Daniel P. Feerick, Roy Schunck, and Eric Tobin, laborers; and area supervisor Chris Ellen Montgomery, who provided landscaping material and debris pickup. She has kept her eye on this staircase for five years and routinely assists in its development.

What's important is that these people get a big pat on the back. They are the ones who keep inspiration alive and who help make San Francisco — and in particular my little corner of the city — a wonderful place to live.

Daniel Oppenheim
Harry Street

Memories of the Quake of '89

Continued from Page 1

Square (another lost and lamented San Francisco tradition). She ran out onto the street and saw scads of people lying on the sidewalk having been hit by falling glass. Many people who were downtown reported the helplessness of watching glass falling out of windows and not knowing where to hide. It is remarkable that so few people were killed (6 in San Francisco; 63 in the entire quake area).

John Hilas, owner of Church Street Produce, said he heard a few seconds of loud rumbling, then felt the back-and-forth shake. Bottles fell off his shelves too, and he ran out the door and saw a brick wall crash into Church Street. He decided it was safer inside, and went back in and stood next to his cash register. A woman walked in a few minutes later, not realizing there had been an earthquake, and told Hilas she must have had a flat tire because her car was shaking so badly.

There were more and less frightening places to be. Several of the patrons in The Peaks bar on Castro Street said the lights went out but they kept right on drinking. No point in wasting good beer.

A far more frightening place to be was underneath a jacked-up house. Edsel Musni of Randall Street was standing under a home that he was renovating when the ground began rumbling and trees shaking. All he could think was "I might die here. But if I don't die, at least I don't have to work late tonight."

At Bell Market on 24th Street, Night Manager Rick Hardina remembers that the store lost practically everything. "One big difference between then and now is that now everything is plastic. Then it was still mostly glass," Hardina said. "Liquor was in Aisle 7 then, and I heard the bottles breaking against the floor. Liquids were puddling out from under all the fallen display cases. We herded everybody outside and cleaned up as fast as we could."

Luckily for local residents, Bell had received a truck full of batteries only the day before. The management of the market kept workers in the store all night, selling batteries, bottled water, diapers, and film. Neighbors lined up outside and paid with what they had. If they were out of cash, they got what they needed anyway, promising to pay later.

Some stores were hit harder than others. In the liquor store that is now Urban Cellars, one-third of the stock was shattered and lost. But on the same side of the street only a block away—at 24th Street Cheese Company—a huge pyramid of wine bottles stacked in the middle of the floor remained intact. Said Cheese Co. owner Charles Kung, "Not one bottle fell." Kung's total loss was a broken jar of olives. So now we know where to run during the next earthquake.

Everyone remembers that people were kind and understanding, in a kind of "shared disaster mentality."

Mike at Streetlight Records was a student at Lowell High School then, and he recalls 19th Avenue being totally gridlocked when the traffic lights stopped working. People got out of their cars and began helping direct traffic to keep it moving. The same thing happened all over San Francisco.

Helen Colgan walked home to Noe Valley from the Marina. It took her two hours. She also saw many people along Divisadero and Castro streets directing traffic while motorists happily obeyed their commands.

All in all, it must be said that Noe Valley suffered little. That semi-bedrock upon which we are perched came in handy when it counted. San Francisco historians know that the same was true in 1906. After the downtown city had burned to the ground, many people looked to rebuild their lives in neighborhoods that hadn't been damaged much.

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Excerpts from the 1989 Earthquake Issue

The following piece by Marigrace Bannon was published on the front page of the November 1989 Noe Valley Voice, *along with our news story on the Loma Prieta Earthquake—which rumbled through the Bay Area for 15 long seconds on Oct. 17, 1989. The issue also contained a letter from Firefighter Terry Smith of Station 24 on Hoffman Avenue. Both pieces show how fortunate the residents of Noe Valley were, and how neighbors can come together to help one another in a crisis. To see the actual paper, check our archives at the Noe Valley Library on Jersey Street.*

We Could See the Stars

On my block, 22nd Street, all was well. Neighborhood children skateboarded, walked in pairs, and held their parents' hand. The Victorian house across the street cast a golden glow from its bay window. The illumination from their kerosene lamps could be seen through their lace curtains. It felt like yesterday.

The air was still, and we could all see the stars. My neighbors and I sat on our stoop under the crimson and plum bougainvillea. We didn't know each other well. We were together. Alma brought us the news with her battery-operated radio, Marsha and I brought some cheer with our chardonnay. Strawberry sorbet appeared, rice crackers and conversation ensued. We all brought some light with our candles.

Together we learned about the bridge, the freeway, the Marina, the fires. We knew we were lucky. The darkened earthquake night slipped into early morning, and we slipped into our apartments, our beds, and our prayers. We were alive.

—Marigrace Bannon
Oct. 17, 1989

Firefighters Tip Hats to Noe Neighbors

Dear residents of Noe Valley,

The firefighters at Engine Company No. 24, 100 Hoffman Ave., would like to thank all local residents who offered assistance and provisions to fellow San Franciscans—and especially firefighters—during our recent earthquake disaster.

Engine No. 24 has been busy assisting in disaster operations throughout the city and has spent little time in Noe Valley. When we did get back to our firehouse, the neighborhood residents overwhelmed us with food and drink to pull us through a couple of days when we had neither the time nor the access to shop for food and cook our meals.

The generosity of our neighborhood is an example of how altruistic and caring we are in time of need. Please come by the firehouse and visit us anytime so we can personally thank you and show you what we do and how we live.

Gratefully yours,

Terry Smith, Firefighter, Engine Company No. 24

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Memories of the Quake of '89

Continued from Previous Page

Noe Valley was one, and our first great building boom occurred in the post-quake period 1908–1920.

Look around you now. Is it a coincidence that the yuppie boom of the '90s followed so closely upon the heels of the Great Shake of October 1989? □

What Our Local Firefighters Have to Tell Us

By Rayne Wolfe

Firefighter Steve Kazarian, of Station 11 on 26th Street, was at home on Monterey Boulevard the day of the '89 quake. After the ground stopped shaking, he drove to Noe Valley to report for duty. "About 20 of us reported in that night," said Kazarian.

The first thing he noticed in Noe Valley was the crowds. "Everybody was standing around outside. It was a real hot, muggy day. People were in the streets and everybody was talking," he said.

Obviously, the damage wasn't too severe. "We had some collapsed bricks and chimneys on houses and storefronts along Church Street," and there was a small fire on Duncan Street, but no serious injuries or fatalities in this part of town.

For the rest of the night, Kazarian responded to calls in the Mission or elsewhere in the city. "I was in a crew sent to a three-alarm fire on Valencia Street. But at midnight most of the 'house' went down to where the buildings were collapsed and on fire in the Marina."

Both he and 26th Street firefighter Bob Cunningham credited the calm weather on Oct. 17, and the quick action of the city's fireboat crews, with keeping the fire damage to a minimum. "The quake proved how valuable the fireboats are," said Cunningham. "It could have been much worse that night if we hadn't had a lot of things going for us."

What do our local firefighters suggest we do before the next big one?

☞ Keep a survival bag in an easily accessible place, like the trunk of your car.

☞ Place a proper wrench or shut-off tool next to your water heater and gas outlets, and make sure you know how to turn off the gas. (But don't turn it off unnecessarily.)

☞ Check the straps on your water heater. It's been 10 years. They could be loose or rusted.

☞ When the quake hits, remember to duck and cover. More people in San Francisco were injured by falling glass than by any other means.

☞ And although you could do worse things than stand in a doorway, firefighters now recommend crawling under a sturdy table or sheltered space.

☞ Meanwhile, you could join a Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT). These are groups of citizen volunteers who have been "cross-trained" in basic emergency skills by the San Francisco Fire Department. In a major earthquake where police and fire services may be overwhelmed, NERT members can help put out fires, move debris, extricate people trapped in buildings, and give first aid to those who may be injured.

The Noe Valley NERT, which was formed two years after the '89 earthquake, is just now winding up a six-week training started in September. But you can enroll in a citywide course beginning Oct. 2 at John Adams School, 1860 Hayes St. (Classes are Saturday mornings, 9 a.m. to noon.) Call 558-3456 to sign up for this free course or to ask about future trainings.

Till then, you might want to talk to family, friends, and neighbors—particularly the older residents on your block—about what they plan to do in an emergency (and who'll bring what dish to the Y2K party). And one more thing: If there's room in your earthquake kit, throw in a camera. The *Voice* would welcome your one-of-a-kind quake snaps. □

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Gourmet kitchen
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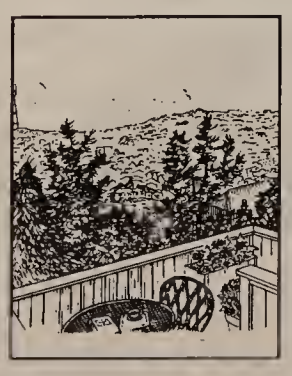

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We're Depressed About the Mayor's Race

Continued from Page 1

hoods, and City Hall pays no attention. Willie Brown doesn't seem to do anything for the neighborhoods."

Nevertheless, Blaustein said, "I still have hopes for Willie Brown, but you don't want my opinion on the other two. You wouldn't be able to print it!"

Blaustein added that she was switching to the Green Party and would vote for their candidate, if they had one. However, San Francisco Green Party spokesperson Betty Traynor said there was no Green candidate for mayor. She also predicted that the party would be unable to reach a consensus on a mayoral endorsement at the group's Sept. 28 meeting.

There were plenty of anti-Brown comments to be heard around the neighborhood. Typical of them was one made by Evelyn Martin, a member of the Duncan Newburg Association: "Anybody but Willie," she said. "Not many people I've talked to are voting for him."

Josh Epple of Drewes Brothers meat market on Church Street seconded that notion: "I don't know anybody who's voting for Willie," he said.

Epple then voiced his support for Clint Reilly, who visited several outer Noe merchants in mid-September: "He came in, shook my hand, and said he was glad to meet me. That's good enough for me."

Cecilia DeLeon, who operates the video store in the same space, also said she was leaning toward Reilly.

Josh's brother Isaac Epple offered an opinion as well. "I'm voting for Cesar Ascarrunz," he said, "because I like his trucks with the lights and the big sign." Isaac then admitted he was joking and said he hadn't made a decision yet.

9 of 20 Challengers on the Web

With this mention of former nightclub owner and perennial candidate Cesar Ascarrunz, it should be noted that this year's election features the usual array of long shots and loonies running for mayor, although we won't venture an opinion as to who belongs in the latter group.

Joining Ascarrunz among the declared are Jim Reid, Lucrecia Bermudez, Mark "SuperBooty" O'Hara, Eric Beckjord, Lord Martine, Joan Jett-Blakk, Max Woods, Mark "Moshe" Hardie, Daniel Benton, Brad Bishop, Larry J. Edmond, Martin L. Eng, William Felzer, Jason Jones, Patrick Lawlor, Glenn-Allen McKeever, Eric Muller, David Parker, and Angela White. Space considerations prevent full coverage, but suffice it to say that their platforms range from thoughtful to purposely ludicrous. (The nine from Ascarrunz through Hardie maintain web sites. Go take a look.)

Despite this surfeit of candidates, the election is centered around the big three: Brown, Jordan, and Reilly — who have web sites too, of course. Their debate at Mission High School on Sept. 8, which degenerated into a heckling and shouting match and also included the arrest of candidate Lucrecia Bermudez, drew the universal ire of residents we spoke to.

Their opinion was best summed up by Katherine Pietrycha of the Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association.

"I found the spectacle at the debate disgusting," Pietrycha said. "If this is the level that San Francisco politics is willing to sink, then we will continue to get the leaders we deserve."

Demos Decline to Pick a Favorite

A more placid environment was found at the Noe Valley Democratic Club meeting on Sept. 15, held at the Noe Valley Ministry and attended by about 40 residents. Perhaps this was because only one mayoral candidate showed up.

Frank Jordan spoke for 10 minutes and then answered questions. Clint Reilly was delayed at another function and canceled at the last minute. Willie Brown had a schedule conflict, so he met with club members earlier in the month.

When asked if any other mayoral candidates had been invited to speak, Democratic Club President Dave Monks expressed his surprise that none of them had showed any interest, mentioning in particular Noe Valley resident Mark "SuperBooty" O'Hara and activist Jim Reid. "You would think that if these people wanted their candidacies taken seriously, they would want to talk to us," Monks said.

Meanwhile, former Mayor Frank Jordan was forceful and articulate while criticizing Willie Brown and also while defending his own statement from the Mission High debate, that the Mission District "looks like a bombed-out Beirut."

A common post-speech lament, however, was that Jordan did not talk about what he would do for the city, other than fire the "450 special assistants averaging $60,000 a year in salary" whom he alleges Mayor Brown hired as a reward for their political support.

So, when it came time to endorse a candidate for mayor, the club could not reach a consensus. As the *Voice* went to press, the Noe Valley Demos still had no recommendation.

Mild Praise for Brown, Reilly

The *Voice* encountered many neighborhood residents who were taking a "lesser of three evils" approach.

Lion Barnett of the Eureka Valley Promotion Association fell into this category. He was not pleased with Willie Brown's performance in office, but said that the mayor's "competition is not going to answer the problems."

However, we did locate a few people who took a positive stance toward a candidate, although no one we talked to said they would vote for Frank Jordan.

Janice Gendreau, a Noe Valley Democratic Club member and former co-chair of Upper Noe Neighbors, is firmly in Clint Reilly's camp. "I looked at his web site and was impressed by his positions," she said.

After exchanging e-mails with Reilly's campaign manager, Gendreau met with the candidate for an hour. "He's a very intelligent man," she said, "and he's inter-

Continued on Page 11

Rev. Keenan Kelsey *(left)* and Deborah Alvarez, of the Mayor's Office for Children and Youth, looked on as Willie Brown filled in a milestone on the Noe Valley Ministry's timeline. Brown hopes to be back in November, to mark his second term as mayor. *Photo by Beverly Tharp*

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POLICE BEAT

Grab-n-Run and Gunpoint Robberies

By Officer Lois Perillo

There were three robberies within the area I cover during the month of August, two of them occurring within two blocks and one day of each other.

On Saturday, Aug. 7, at 11:35 a.m., five people entered a business at 22nd and Dolores streets and stole money while one person distracted the worker by pretending to leave the store with unpaid merchandise. When the worker noticed the exiting suspect and left the counter to confront her, another suspect grabbed the money. This incident was classified as a robbery when the worker and the departing suspect struggled.

On Monday, Aug. 30, at 3:30 p.m., two 29-year-old women walking west on 25th Street toward San Jose Avenue were robbed at gunpoint by a 16- to 24-year-old male and his two companions. No one was injured in the incident. In a positive turn of events, BART police later recovered one of the women's stolen belongings — absent the money — on a Pittsburg/Bay Point BART train and returned the property to her.

The third reported robbery in August occurred the next evening at 10 p.m., near 23rd and San Jose Avenue. In this incident, two 18-year-old men robbed three women in their late 20s and 30s. One of the men brandished a small automatic gun, ordered the women to give him "everything," and threatened to shoot them if they refused. The second suspect collected the women's property, then pat-searched them to ensure their cooperation. The bad guys then ordered the women to walk west on 23rd toward Guerrero, while they headed eastbound toward Valencia Street.

Upon reaching Guerrero, the women phoned police, who searched the area but did not find the suspects. Officer Greg Ortega noted that this robbery was the third in a series that occurred Aug. 31 in the Mission Police District. In all three cases, the suspects' physical descriptions, clothing, and weapons matched.

The prime suspect is described as an 18-year-old African-American male, 5'8", 145 pounds, having black hair with shaved sides, and a three-inch scar on his left cheek. Anyone with information regarding these cases is asked to call Inspector Michael Dudoroff of the Robbery Detail at 553-1201.

String of Burgs on Chattanooga

Noe Valley and the surrounding area of my beat reported 16 burglaries during August, including nine to apartments, five to houses, and two to garages. This was twice the number reported in July, but five of the burgs were committed between Aug. 1 and 13, on the east side of the 200 block of Chattanooga Street.

In one case, the suspect used an unlocked door to enter a woman's apartment while she slept. The intruder stole the woman's purse and left.

The good news is, police arrested two suspects for criminal activity at two other locations in the neighborhood. One of them was not too far from the Chattanooga burglaries:

On Saturday, Aug. 28, at 3 p.m., a 27-year-old woman living on the 1000 block of Dolores was awakened by the sound of a person in her apartment. She called out, and a man replied that he had walked in the open front door, "looking for Betty." The woman yelled for the man to leave, and he ran from her apartment, exiting to Mersey Alley (between Dolores and Chattanooga). After he fled, she discovered that he had stolen her cell phone and pager. She then called the police.

Officer Lorraine Lombardo responded and noted that the suspect had apparently broken a bathroom window and a sunroom window to gain entry. Lombardo contacted a crime scene investigator, who came to the apartment and collected evidence linked to the suspect.

The Burglary Detail investigated the case and issued a warrant for 23-year-old Eric Yamamoto, who was on probation for both burglary and drug possession. On Sunday, Aug. 29, Officer Michael Palada arrested Yamamoto and booked him on first-degree burglary, with bail set at $50,000. The District Attorney's office also moved to revoke Yamamoto's probation. He is currently in custody at County Jail awaiting his court date.

Arrest in Domestic Violence Case

A 45-year-old man with a criminal history of battering his 47-year-old live-in girlfriend was arrested on Friday, Aug. 27, at 10 p.m. He was charged with battery and threats, which are both felonies.

When Officer Trenia Wearing responded to a house on 26th Street between Valencia and Guerrero, she found the girlfriend, her 12-year-old daughter, and the suspect standing on the sidewalk. The man was yelling threats of bodily harm at both females. Officer Wearing handcuffed the suspect and learned from the young girl that he had assaulted her mother and threatened to kill them.

Although the woman had fresh bruises on her upper body, she denied having been assaulted. She said, "He only says those things when he's been drinking, and he doesn't mean anything by it."

However, when the daughter described that day's assault and one from the day before, Officer Wearing arrested the suspect, who then told the targeted woman that he would return to kill them. While at the station, the man also threatened to kill a police officer.

The suspect was charged with two felonies, which the D.A.'s office later rebooked. The D.A. also added two misdemeanor charges. The man remains in custody pending his court date.

At the request of Officer Wearing, Judge Parker Meeks also issued an emergency protective order (EPO), ordering the batterer to move from the residence he shares with the woman and her daughter, and prohibiting any contact with them. Although this order is a temporary measure lasting only five days, the judge also issued a "stay-away order," which lasts as long as the court proceedings continue.

If a stay-away order had not been issued, the woman could have applied for a longer restraining order herself, through Superior Court.

Residents should know that anyone may apply for a restraining order at any time, regardless of the existence of a criminal or civil case. If a subject violates the judge's order, he or she faces arrest and citation, and a court date. A repeat violation means arrest and booking at the county jail.

Restraining orders are not fail-safe mechanisms. However, they are tools that can help those targeted with domestic violence to reclaim control of their lives. Counseling services, shelters, job training, and victim/witness support are other alternatives.

Some Local Resources

W.O.M.A.N. Inc. (24-hour hotline)	864-4722
S.F. Neighborhood Legal Assistance (for restraining Orders)	982-1300
Volunteer Legal Service (Bar Assn.)	989-1616
Community United Against Violence (same-sex domestic violence)	333-4357
S.F. Women Against Rape	647-7273
Rape Treatment Center	821-3222
The Talk Line (children)	441-KIDS
Children Trauma Project	206-5323
Mt. Zion Violence Prevention (children)	885-7636
Men Overcoming Violence–MOVE (offenders)	777-4496
ManAlive (offenders)	979-5933
SFPD Domestic Violence Response Unit 850 Bryant St. #561 (criminal complaint followup)	553-9225

I'll close with a quote from the Family Violence Prevention Project (553-1361): "There is no excuse for domestic violence. Domestic violence or assault by a person you know, including your spouse, is a crime."

Con Man Returns—Again and Again

News Flash. Dateline: Bernal Heights and the Castro. Joseph Lawrence, a.k.a. Jim the Con Man (sometimes Tim), continues his smooth ruse. Thanks to last month's column in the *Voice* and a piece in the *Bernal Journal*, more than 20 residents called me about the doings of Lawrence. Inspector Mark Sullivan even got a positive I.D. of Lawrence from two of you. Good job!

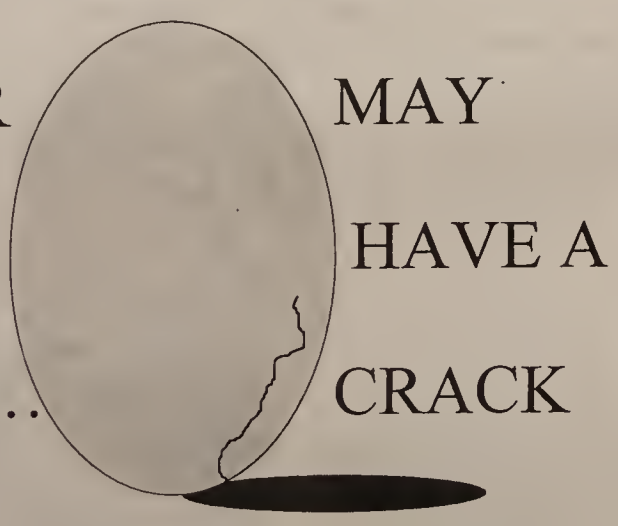
Meanwhile, Lawrence knocked on the door of an off-duty police officer living in the Castro and began his spiel, which ended abruptly after he dropped my name. (Yes, the cad actually used my name.) When the off-duty officer acknowledged knowing me, Lawrence asked, "How is that?" Upon hearing the answer, "I work with her," Lawrence said his goodbyes and hurried away.

Spread the word to your friends and family throughout the city that "Jim" persists in his con game: asking for donations to his daughter's soccer team and claiming to be your neighborhood's block caption. Perhaps a recent felony drug arrest, joined with a false solicitation and theft charge, will stop him in his tracks. But don't bet on it.

Until next month, let's continue to watch out for one another, and I'll see you on patrol. □

San Francisco Police Officer Lois Perillo covers her Noe Valley beat—from Valencia to Grand View and 21st to Cesar Chavez—on foot and on bicycle. If you would like to discuss a crime or safety problem, call her at 558-5404, the community policing line at Mission Station.

YOUR NEST EGG... MAY HAVE A CRACK



Long term care for yourself or aging relatives could wipe out a lifetime of savings and create tremendous stress on family members. Medicare does not cover long term care and Medicaid will require that you 'spend-down' your assets to qualify. Financial planners and retirement specialists often recommend Long Term Care Insurance as the most viable solution. For third party articles or a free, no-pressure consultation call Bill Hannant at 415-647-7012.

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A Cauldron of Halloween Treats

Continued from Page 1

have. Bat stories for younger children will be presented by children's book author Caroline Arnold, at 11 and 11:30 a.m. For older kids, Patricia Winters of the California Bat Conservation Fund will give a slide show at 1 p.m., titled "Wings in the Night." The Randall Museum is located at 199 Museum Way, off Roosevelt, above Castro Street. For more information call 554-9600.

Next, the Upper Noe Recreation Center, at the corner of Day and Sanchez streets, will host a Halloween Carnival on Friday, Oct. 29, from 3 to 6 p.m. The carnival, recommended for kids 5 and over, will include games and prizes, a special children's play called "Witches Brew," and a costume parade. Cookies and apple cider will be served. Admission is free. For more information, contact program director Chris Borg at 695-5011.

On Oct. 30, the Randall Museum will hold its annual Family Halloween Fest from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., featuring creepy crafts, ghoulish games, face painting, and pumpkin carving, plus a special music performance by longtime Bay Area favorite Bonnie Lockhart. Kids ages 2 to 12 and their families are invited to check out "Dr. Randallstein's Laboratory," "Animals of the Night," and "The Bone Room." Admission is free, but some activities charge 50 cents to $1.

On Sunday, Oct. 31, the official Halloween, Noe Valley merchants on 24th Street will welcome trick-or-treaters during the day. According to Carol Yenne, owner of Small Frys, most stores will stay open for kids until 6 p.m.

At Real Food Company on 24th Street, kids 12 and under are invited to participate in the fourth annual Halloween Costume Contest. According to store manager Ron Wilson, witches, ghosts, and goblins can have their picture taken and get a healthy treat. The winners for funniest, scariest, and most original costumes will be posted in the store window the following week.

Church Street merchants in Upper Noe will also welcome trick-or-treaters on Sunday. The One Stop Party Shop at Church and 28th, which boasts one of the scariest storefronts in the neighborhood, will be full of ghouls handing out treats until 10 p.m. Tom Maravilla of Mikeytom Market at Church and Day will be in the spirit all day on Halloween, giving out treats until the store closes at 8 p.m.

One sad note this year, Marilyn Lucas — the "Haunted House Lady" of Hoffman Avenue for nearly two decades — is sitting this Halloween out. "I've decided to retire from the haunted house," says Lucas, "and spend Halloween with my newborn granddaughter." Congratulations to Lucas, and thanks for all the wonderful Halloween memories. □

Past parties at the Upper Noe Rec Center were so scary (and so full of candy) the guests often needed immediate medical and dental care. But this year's Halloween Carnival at Upper Noe, on Friday, Oct. 29, will treat kids to games and apple cider. *Photo courtesy Kevin Black*

None of the Top Three Candidates Inspires Confidence

Continued from Page 9

ested in the neighborhoods and in local transportation and regional transportation as well."

Gendreau's experiences as a city employee at the airport during both the Jordan and Brown administrations left her with a bad taste in her mouth. "Jordan wasn't a good leader," she said, "and I would like to see Brown gone. He is really damaging our city."

She was especially discouraged by what she calls Brown's "cronyism and corruption." Gendreau took an early retirement, due in part to being "forced to hire people who don't do anything." She thinks that 450 special assistants, the number Jordan uses, is a conservative estimate. "And," she added, "with a $60,000 average salary, that's 27 million dollars. Imagine what you could do for the city with that money."

Jersey Street resident Marjorie Stern, also a Democratic Club member and a Brown appointee to the Commission on Aging, said Jordan's criticism of special assistants was "like the pot calling the kettle black." She was on the advisory council to the commission when Jordan became mayor, and said that he "swept away the people on the commission and replaced them with his own friends."

Stern believes Willie Brown has brought "flair" to San Francisco, has made it "attractive to business," and "done a great deal in Parks and Rec, children's interests, and in neighborhoods." She also feels that the newspapers have "exaggerated his slips, and many of the good things have not been reported."

Democratic Club Treasurer Diane Sidd-Champion is a staunch Brown supporter as well, adding that she was "very pleased with his record on labor issues."

Also in the mayor's corner, but with less enthusiasm, is 23rd Street resident Addie Lanier. During a phone conversation, she admitted to being "jaded on politics," but said that Brown is "a wheeler-dealer, but when you get to him, he hears you." She also said her husband, Peter Weverka, once worked with Clint Reilly, had nothing good to say about him, and strongly favors Brown. In the background, Weverka concurred.

Lots of Sizzle, Not Much Steak

A few positive comments aside, it was easy to return to the disappointment theme. Elliot Poger, a 20-something resident of Vicksburg Street, sent an e-mail with some representative comments:

"I was suckered in by Big Willie's 'Matrix stinks' and 'fix Muni' platform. Well, starting with his inaugural gala (complete with Mao Tse-Tung giant head portraits), I realized he was lots of sizzle and not much steak. Maybe good as a figurehead, but not as a city manager. Matrix pretty much continued, and Muni keeps doing its thing too. I am depressed about the mayor's race, though: Jordan is a closet Republican, and Clint Reilly embodies everything that is wrong with American politics. I'll probably end up voting for some Green Party desperado."

Since the Greens have no candidate, those with a similar outlook might consider the grassroots organization None Of The Above! (P.O. Box 421752, SF, 94142), whose name speaks for itself. In a newsletter sent to the *Voice*, NOTA says it wants to create "in every town and city a movement independent of the major parties ... and ultimately run independent candidates for all local elected offices."

Finally, our survey did result in some reassuring news: Whether Noe Valley residents were delighted, disappointed, or downright disgusted with the choices in the upcoming election, they still held strong opinions. Voter apathy never once reared its head. □

Vicki Rosen phoned at press time to say that Clint Reilly, "hopefully Mayor Brown, too," and several other candidates will discuss their views at the next meeting of the Upper Noe Neighbors on Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m., at Upper Noe Rec Center. Also, you can meet Reilly near the local Walgreen's at 11:30 a.m. on Oct. 9. He'll be shaking hands and watching the Noe Valley Merchants' hayride on 24th Street.

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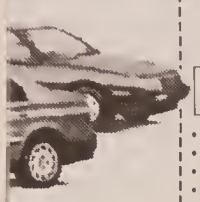

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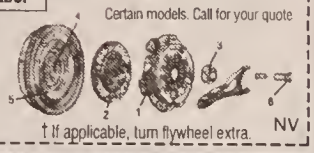

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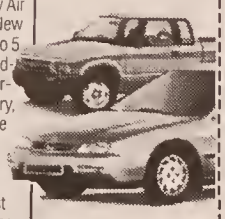

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Traffic Is Just As Bad As It's Always Been

By Alison Pence

Is it just me or is 24th Street more congested than ever? I find that driving down 24th Street can be a challenge. Threading through the double-parked trucks, SUVs, Muni buses, fire trucks, bike riders—not to mention the pedestrians—I'm lucky to avoid an accident.

Like most residents, I have practically stopped driving to 24th Street to shop. Where would I put the car? I circle around the block with my son starting to cry in the back. He wants to get out. So do I. We go home, leave the car, and walk.

It must be a challenge for the truck drivers, too. Even though we have more yellow zones, they often wind up parking in the middle of the street between Noe and Sanchez while unloading their goods. Have the deliveries become more numerous?

"I've worked here for 25 years," says Gary Grozetti, manager of Bell Market, "and our deliveries have not changed." Ron Wilson, manager at Real Food Company, says the same thing and that no one has complained to him about the trucks.

Helen Norris across the street at Common Scents admits that traffic is heavy at times, perhaps worse than it was. She adds, however, "I really can't complain about the traffic because a semi-truck makes a delivery here once a week."

I asked Lois Perillo, our beat officer based at Mission Station, if traffic had gotten worse on 24th Street. She didn't think so. "It's always been congested," she told me.

24th Street Revisited

My perception that 24th Street has had an increase in traffic could be due to the fact that I am not commuting to work anymore. Days go by before I get in the car. When I go to 24th Street, I enter a world with a lot more action than I'm used to. Also, the cars, jeeps, and vans are giant-size now. Some of them are so tall they block your view of the road.

In any case, I set out to find the truth. I called the Department of Parking and Traffic (DPT) and talked to Traffic Engineer Ricardo Olea. He remembered that there had been a traffic study on 24th Street some years back. He offered to repeat the study so that we could compare results. He cautioned that the data would not be able to distinguish between cars and trucks. The test simply counts the number of vehicles that go over a strip on the pavement during a 24-hour period.

My editor also noted that any conclusions drawn from the traffic studies might not be scientifically accurate because the second test was to be done on a different day of the week and at the tail end of summer vacation. Still, we told Olea to go ahead and that the *Voice* certainly appreciated his effort.

Over 11,000 Vehicles a Day

On June 27, 1994 (a Monday), at 3 p.m., two thin cables were stretched across 24th Street at Noe. One cable counted eastbound traffic and the other westbound traffic. They recorded 11,784 vehicles crossing the strip over the next 24 hours.

The 1994 study also identified peak hours for morning and evening traffic. The eastbound cars (heading toward the Mission) peaked at 7:30 a.m. with 463 cars and at 4 p.m. with 409 vehicles. Westbound traffic (going toward Twin Peaks) peaked at 10:15 a.m. with 475 vehicles and 5:30 p.m. with 548 vehicles.

Five years later, on Thursday, Aug. 26, 1999, the cables were laid down again. This time the strips recorded 11,339 vehicles in the 24 hours tested. Again, the study started at 3 p.m. and ended at 2:59 p.m. the following day.

Peak hours eastbound in 1999 were 9:30 a.m. with 370 vehicles and 12 p.m. with 358 vehicles. Peak hours westbound were 11 a.m. with 402 vehicles and 6:45 p.m. with 483 vehicles.

The weather was clear for both the 1994 and 1999 study.

Little Change Since 1994

The data, in graph form, is remarkably similar for both years. It shows a steady flow of traffic on 24th Street from morning till night, with a short lull around 3 p.m. In 1999, the average number of eastbound vehicles from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. is 306, not far below the "peak" numbers of 370 and 358.

Olea went over the data with me and concluded that there had been little change in traffic patterns in the past five years.

Still, it's surprising how many vehicles are driving on 24th Street. If you add up the numbers during peak hours—from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.—you get over 9,000. That translates to 750 cars an hour, or 1 every 5 seconds!

What can they all be doing? Are they, like me, looking for a parking space? I can just imagine the study being thrown out because cameras show the same cars circling the block again and again.

Are they driving to and from jobs in Noe Valley? Shopping for clothes? Stopping by the grocery store after work?

There's a peak hour at noon. Does 24th Street attract an enormous lunch crowd?

That's fine, but is there some way to convince people to leave their cars at home? Perhaps we could run a Downtown Noe Valley shuttle service.

I would like a study that could answer these questions. Till then, please write and let me know your thoughts. □

Send comments to the Noe Valley Voice *at 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or e-mail* jaxvoice@aol.com.

Traffic on 24th Street Is Heavy Both Ways

1999 Westbound Traffic Study – 24th Street East of Noe Street*

Hour of Day	No. Vehicles	Each ○ represents 20 vehicles
from 12 AM to 1 AM	70	○○○○
1 AM	47	○○
2 AM	24	○
3 AM	18	○
4 AM	28	○
5 AM	50	○○○
6 AM	185	○○○○○○○○○
7 AM	195	○○○○○○○○○○
8 AM	315	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
9 AM	334	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
10 AM	330	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
11 AM	402	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
12 PM	435	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
1 PM	423	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
2 PM	430	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
3 PM	361	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
4 PM	413	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
5 PM	439	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
6 PM	432	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
7 PM	474	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
8 PM	362	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
9 PM	276	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
10 PM	204	○○○○○○○○○○
11 PM	128	○○○○○○

Total westbound volume: 6,375 vehicles

Peak hours westbound on 24th Street:
Morning peak hour volume of 402 begins at 11:00 AM.
Evening peak hour volume of 483 begins at 6:45 PM.

1999 Eastbound Traffic Study – 24th Street West of Noe Street*

Hour of Day	No. Vehicles	Each ○ represents 20 vehicles
from 12 AM to 1 AM	51	○○○
1 AM	39	○○
2 AM	17	○
3 AM	20	○
4 AM	19	○
5 AM	58	○○○
6 AM	134	○○○○○○○
7 AM	247	○○○○○○○○○○○○
8 AM	282	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
9 AM	346	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
10 AM	316	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
11 AM	341	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
12 PM	358	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
1 PM	314	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
2 PM	292	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
3 PM	261	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
4 PM	334	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
5 PM	308	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
6 PM	314	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
7 PM	275	○○○○○○○○○○○○○○○
8 PM	232	○○○○○○○○○○○○○
9 PM	182	○○○○○○○○○
10 PM	142	○○○○○○○
11 PM	82	○○○○

Total eastbound volume: 4,964 vehicles

Peak hours eastbound on 24th Street:
Morning peak hour volume of 370 begins at 9:30 AM.
Evening peak hour volume of 358 begins at 12:00 PM.

Total volume for eastbound and westbound traffic was 11,339 vehicles.

**Study conducted by the San Francisco Department of Parking and Traffic. Data collection began at 3 PM on Thursday, August 26, 1999.*

Crunching the Numbers: At the request of *Voice* reporter Alison Pence, the city's Department of Parking and Traffic recently undertook a study of traffic on 24th Street. Two cables placed at Noe and 24th streets measured 11, 339 vehicles in a 24-hour period. The results clearly show that more people are driving up the hill toward Castro—56 percent—than down toward Dolores Street. Peak congestion occurs at noon and 7 p.m.

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Upper Noe Gets New Children's Recreation Director

By Heidi Anderson

Tracey Dye recently joined the Upper Noe Recreation Center staff as an assistant to Director Chris Borg. She will help with the roster of children's programs—Kids Gym, Tiny Tots, After School Fun—and she will lead some new programs and field trips herself.

Dye, 30, has many years of recreation experience. She says she "grew up" at her neighborhood recreation center in Millbrae, and by 15 was coaching teams of her own. While earning a degree in recreation therapy from Sacramento State, Dye worked on Ability to Compete Together (ACT) in Sacramento, an event similar to the Special Olympics.

"Even when I was little, I wanted to be a person who helped push wheelchairs," Dye says. She has since found plenty of ways to help others.

In San Francisco, Dye already has covered a lot of ground. She began at Special Needs (a department of the Assisted Services Division), working with disabled adults. More recently she operated a latchkey program at Mission Recreation Center. "We had fun. We did a great gardening program—I want to go back there and check on it—and we took the kids out every Tuesday to clean up the block on Treat between 20th and 21st streets."

Dye brings a bonus for Upper Noe's children's programs. She is licensed to drive vans for Rec and Park events—a privilege that requires passing a physical and successfully completing a three-hour driving test and a lengthy written exam. "Before my actual driving test, the examiner opened up the hood of the van and made me identify every part of the engine," she notes.

Even when she's not driving people somewhere in a van, Dye likes to get out and about. After graduation from Sacramento State, she and a friend hiked and road trains through 11 European countries in two months. At a stop in Vienna, she made time to visit her grandmother's childhood home. Nowadays, Dye still gets together every Fourth of July with 17 of her closest high school friends to camp in Yosemite.

This fall, back in her new Upper Noe "home," Dye will host a Monday storytime for children of all ages during the lunch hour ("Please come and bring books if you want!"). She'll also offer homework help for 5- to 9-year-olds after school. "No calculus, though," she laughs. Other days, she will assist director Borg's thriving Kids Gym and Tiny Tots programs.

On a recent afternoon, Dye fit right in, assisting preschoolers with a craft-box project. On another day she offered an impromptu fish cracker pop-in-the-mouth-from-wrist demonstration to a couple of inspired 5-year-olds. Dye's words of advice, "Don't use M&Ms or peanuts. They can hurt your teeth." □

Assistant park director Tracey Dye *(left)* is eager to build sand castles with the kids at Upper Noe Rec Center. *Photo by Charles Kennard*

Fall 1999 Schedule at Upper Noe Recreation Center

Upper Noe Rec Center, also known as Day Street Park, is located on Day Street between Sanchez and Church. For information, call 695-5011.

Monday	12:30–1:30	Story Time	Ages 2–5	Free
	2:30–3:30	Tether Ball	6–10	Free
	3:30–4:30	Homework Help	6–12	Free
Tuesday	10:30–12:30	Kids Gym	1–3	$2 per visit
	1:30–3:30	Tiny Tots	3–5	$10 per term
	4:30–5:15	Play Rehearsal	5–10	Free
Wednesday	11:00–3:00	Sr. Citizen Club	55+	$12 per year
	3:30–5:30	Kids Gym	1–3	$2 per visit
Thursday	10:00–12:00	Tiny Tots	3–5	$10 per term
	1:00–2:30	Child/Parent Fun	All ages	Free
	3:00–6:00	After School Fun	6–12	Free
Friday	10:00–12:00	Tiny Tots	3–5	$10 per term
	1:00–2:30	Child/Parent Fun	All ages	Free
	3:00–6:00	After School Fun	6–12	Free
Saturday	10:30–12:00	Kids Gym	1–3	$2 per visit
	1:00–3:00	Holiday Crafts	6–12	Free
	12:30–4:30	Birthday Rental*	1–7	$55 for 2 hours
Sunday	12:30–4:30	Birthday Rental*	1–7	$55 for 2 hours

*Contact Charles Holmes for permit: 415-831-5520.

Field Closed for Resodding

By Heidi Anderson

If you're a regular at Upper Noe Recreation Center or you think you might come enjoy a few of the new programs, be forewarned that the athletic field will be off-limits for several months. Upper Noe, also known as Day Street Park, is overdue for an irrigation system upgrade, and it recently received a grant of $50,000 to fix the sprinklers and resod the field.

Park officials are reluctant to say exactly how long the work will take, but they estimate it will start in October and last about three months. During that time, the entire playing field along Day between Church and Sanchez will be fenced off.

A bit of history: In 1956, when a row of houses was torn down to make way for the rec center, the foundations of these houses were left in place and the new field put in over them. Since then, the park has been notorious for turning to soup during the winter rains.

A pet theory of longtime residents is that the field won't drain—after even the slightest rain—because the former foundations are holding the water. Those more familiar with the grounds say the mushy field has to do with the park's being situated in a valley surrounded by hills, and with the high percentage of clay in the soil.

Whatever its origins, the flooding problem is not likely to go away this winter, say park staff. However, the new sod and sprinklers should improve the field's appearance. □

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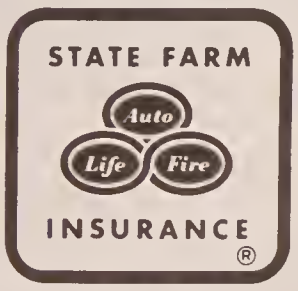

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STORE TREK

By Jim Christie

Storetrek is a regular feature of the *Voice* introducing new businesses in the neighborhood. This month we cover several shops and services operating on the perimeter of Noe Valley. We also welcome two new arrivals to the neighborhood proper.

Valley Chiropractic Health Center has been in business in Noe Valley for 10 years, but the center's trio of practitioners recently became a quartet. Doctor of Chiropractic **Tracey Fung** opened her practice this summer, joining three other doctors at their Church Street location—Michelle Paris, Claudia Kindler, and Nicoletta Ketchum.

Of the services offered at Valley Chiropractic, Fung says, "We do it all!" "All" includes massage therapy, acupuncture, yoga, and Pilates, an exercise program that focuses on body strength and endurance. Fung, a Belmont resident who would "love to move to Noe Valley," is a 1996 graduate of the Palmer College of Chiropractic West in San Jose, where she is now a faculty member.

Valley Chiropractic is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday appointments are also scheduled. The doctors can be reached at 415-550-1200, or you can drop in at their offices at 1326 Church St. (at Clipper).

A few blocks away is the new **Shelley Masters Studio of Decorative Painting,** at 3998 Cesar Chavez (at Sanchez), which opened this summer. Masters, a nine-year resident of Noe Valley, offers a broad range of hands-on and conceptual art classes, and occasional free lectures and open studios.

A sampling of classes includes Basic and Advanced Wallglazing, Marble & Metallics, Verdigris & Rust, Cracked Linen Appliqué, Children's Rooms, and a host of others. Classes are usually one, two, or three days, and fees range from $195 to $475, depending on duration and cost of materials.

Masters developed her technique during a 25-year career in the decorative painting business and boasts a large following of interior designers. Call her at 415-695-7844 to ask about upcoming classes, or drop by and pick up a studio pamphlet.

On the fringes of Noe Valley (the corner of 29th Street and San Jose Avenue), you'll find **Fastframe,** a franchise art framing shop that opened in July. Mother-and-son team Jean LaDouceur and Trent Woods are the proprietors, although if you drop in, you'll likely meet Woods, who runs the day-to-day operation.

Fastframe offers framing services, but not of the do-it-yourself variety. Woods specializes in "preservation framing"—museum-quality archival framing using acid-free materials. He studied photography at the University of San Francisco, then acquired a Master of Fine Arts degree from Washington University in St. Louis.

Woods says that small (8″ x 10″) framing jobs start at $40 to $50, depending on the type of frame and matte chosen, and archival framing begins at around $125. Turnaround is generally two days to a week, depending on the availability of materials chosen by the customer. There is also a modest selection of art works for sale—mainly posters and serigraphs of old French advertisements.

Web surfers can learn more about Fastframe at *www.fastframe.com*. Better yet, call Trent Woods at 415-282-3620, or stop by the shop (695 San Jose Ave.). Fastframe is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Just across from Fastframe, at 85 29th St., is **Kids Cuts,** a shop specializing in children's haircuts. Admiring the remodeled and brightly painted facade of the building, you might think the salon opened yesterday. But Noe Valley resident and Kids Cuts owner Catalina Bassehes assures us she's been clipping away at this location going on two years now.

Children's regular haircuts are $12, a dollar of which is donated to St. Paul's or St. James schools, courtesy of Bassehes. Adults aren't excluded from Kids Cuts' services, but they pay a little more—their haircuts cost $15. Bassehes also offers perms and colors. Kids Cuts (415-643-8582) is open Monday through Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Further explorations of Noe Valley's outer reaches led us to **Home Remedies,** a Valencia Street furniture store specializing in hardwood classic tables and chairs. Owner Rachel Ambrose opened her doors last February after several years as the San Francisco sales rep for her family's Maine-based furniture business.

Naturally, she carries the family's handmade furniture, which is Shaker-style with simple lines, as well as upholstered sofas and other home furnishings. Home Remedies (415-826-2026) is at 1026 Valencia St. (at 21st Street). The store is open Tuesday through Friday from noon to 7 p.m., Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

Four blocks away in this burgeoning area of "Baja Noe" is **Thumbs Up Marbles,** a gift shop that opened in April at 3422 25th St. (at Valencia). Owner Paul Haugen used to be a partner in the Haight-Ashbury restaurant Friends. But after eight years, he says, "I got burnt-out with the restaurant business."

Thumbs Up carries a large selection of marbles, including handmade varieties that Haugen uses in jewelry. A unique aspect of the "marble jewelry" is that the marbles can be interchanged for a different look. There are many more gift items at Thumbs Up, including soaps, candles, glassware, and other household wares. Thumbs Up (415-920-8964) is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

We began our roundup with a health center, so let's come full circle by finishing up with another health-related concern. **The Integrative Center for Culture and Healing** (ICCH) is in Noe Valley's back yard, at 1640 Valencia St., Suite 201 (at Duncan Street). The center, a public benefit corporation associated with St. Luke's Hospital, opened in October 1998.

ICCH offers a wide range of services, including acupuncture, chiropractic, massage, Rosen method body work, hypnotherapy, and Reiki touch therapy. Beginning this month is a new program, "Getting Ready for Surgery," which will focus on reducing patients' anxiety and stress prior to surgery and enhancing the healing process afterwards. (The fee is $280—for four imagery and healing sessions, plus customized audio tapes and follow-up. Participants are not required to have surgery performed at St. Luke's.)

For more information on the program or the center, contact Jane Tatum or Claudia McGregor at 415-282-9823. □

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Theater Troupe Plays *Hamlet* at Noe Ministry

By Richard Dodds

It will be Shakespeare "without the frou-frou," according to the director of a lean-and-mean production of *Hamlet* opening this month at the Noe Valley Ministry.

"We get to the point," John Wilk says of the two-hour, modern-dress version of the play. "It's our consensus of how the play relates to the modern generation."

Hamlet is the debut production of the Random Acts Theatre Company, a group of 11 performers who recently decided to form their own ensemble. The seven men and four women play all 30 roles in Shakespeare's tragedy, doing multiple parts and bending gender as needed. Karl Hanover, an actor from Ireland, will head the cast as Hamlet. Karla Acosta, originally from the Philippines, is Ophelia.

One of the most popular plays in the Shakespeare canon, *Hamlet* explores the dilemmas facing the prince of Denmark when he learns his father, the king, was murdered by his new stepfather. Whether to end the new king's life, or even his own, are decisions that face the vacillating prince who, in his famous soliloquy, questions whether "To be or not to be."

"They say this play has a new message for every generation," Wilk says, "and what [the actors] did was sit down and talk about it for a good two weeks. We talked about how people deal with isolation, how they feel when they want to be part of a community and are not always allowed to be, and how they deal with their own selfishness and loneliness at the same time." The group is sure the final product will be "explosive," Wilk says.

For the past 14 years, Wilk, who lives on the "cusp" of Noe Valley and Glen Park, has taught acting at City College of San Francisco. For six years Wilk ran his own theater company, the San Francisco Theatre Project. He has also worked at the American Conservatory Theater (A.C.T.) as an administrator and associate director.

While some of the cast members are his former students, "they're not just a collection of 19-year-olds," Wilk says. "In fact, some of the people in the cast are in their 50s. They're grownups."

Karla Acosta will play Polonius' daughter Ophelia, a maid in love with Hamlet, in the Ministry production of Shakespeare's tragedy Oct. 22 to Nov. 14. *Photo courtesy Random Acts*

Back in 1983, Wilk directed a play at the Noe Valley Ministry, and he recommended the Gothic Victorian church to the members of Random Acts. "I told them it was a great space, acoustically well suited for Shakespeare. Luckily they were able to find the dates." The company will give a total of eight performances from Oct. 22 to Nov. 14.

Though the Ministry stage will be bare except for some chairs, Wilk feels the sanctuary has the proper courtly feel for the play. An "environmental soundscape" by composer Ken Kearney will help set a contemporary tone.

In its press release, the company makes lighthearted reference to its "non-blond" status. "This cast is multi-ethnic," Wilk explains, "and they thought it was funny that nobody has blond hair even though the play is set in Denmark. We have a cast typical of the fabric of Northern California, which makes it very interesting because everyone's got something to say."

Wilk bristles when he hears the rap against Shakespeare that he's just another "dead white male" with little relevance to today's audiences.

"This play is so well written it can speak to anybody," he said. "'A thousand natural shocks that flesh is heir to' is just an incredible line, and it can speak to drug addiction, AIDS, growing old, or just getting a cut on your finger. It's just one of thousands of lines that jump right off the page." □

Random Acts' Hamlet *will play weekends from Oct. 22 to Nov. 14 at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. A preview performance will be held Friday, Oct. 22, at 8 p.m. The show's opening takes place Sunday, Oct. 24, at 4 p.m. The remaining performances will be Fridays, Oct. 29, Nov. 5, and Nov. 12; Saturdays, Oct. 30 and Nov. 13; and Sunday, Nov. 14; at 8 p.m. Tickets are $15 general; $12 preview, students, and seniors; and $10 for groups of 10 or more (reservations required). Call 415-337-8963.*

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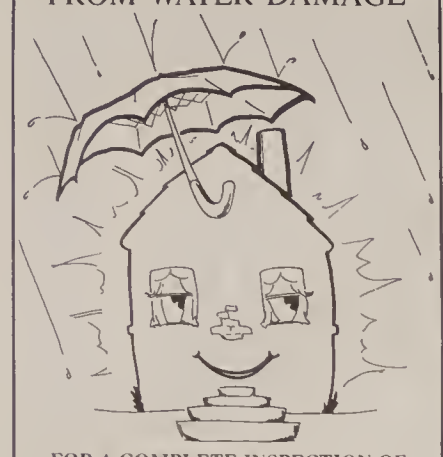

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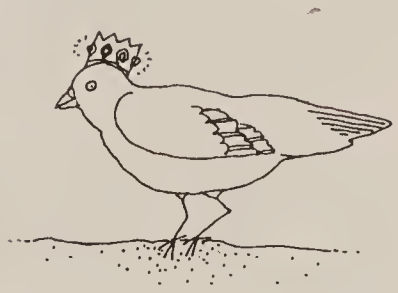

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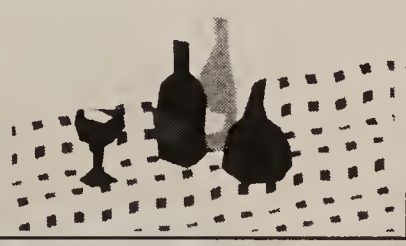

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The Parker House Guest House at Church and 18th streets will host an AIDS benefit Oct. 9, cosponsored by Supervisor Mark Leno and the 2223 Restaurant.

SHORT TAKES

Flea Market Is a Block Party

The Noe Valley Ministry will host its annual Flea Market & Super Sale on Saturday, Oct. 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. "Come join the fun," says Carol Maerzke, organizer of the church fundraiser.

Festivities will include a gourmet luncheon (served from 11:30 to 2), an all-day bake sale, and "plenty of bargains on clothes, furniture, and knickknacks," she says. Again this year, the flea market will take up both floors of the Ministry and have special sections for books and toys. It also will spill outside.

Maerzke explains that in past years people who live near the Ministry often held simultaneous garage sales. "This has worked out surprisingly well for everyone—after all, the more the merrier," she says. "So this year we're suggesting that all of our neighbors on Sanchez between 23rd and Elizabeth put out those items they've long thought of getting rid of and make this even more of a block event."

She also invites residents to donate items to the church by bringing them by the week before the sale. Or you can call 282-2317 and arrange for a pickup on Friday, Oct. 8, from 2 to 9 p.m. (That's also the best time to drop things off.)

The Noe Valley Ministry is the gothic Victorian church—a member of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. — located at 1021 Sanchez St.

Nervous About Kindergarten?

If you have a child entering kindergarten next fall ('00!), you may have begun the process of choosing the right school for him or her to attend. And if you're like most Noe Valley parents, you are slightly daunted by the fact that it's a "process," even if you want a public school.

Then there's the question of which school — alternative or neighborhood? And if test scores aren't the best way to judge a school, what else do you use?

Well, this game may not be as hard to play as you think. You will be better informed about San Francisco's public schools after attending a workshop on Saturday, Oct. 16, at Harvey Milk Elementary School, 19th and Diamond streets in the Castro, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Margaret Wells from the San Francisco Unified School District and Lee Ann Slaton, director of Parents Place, will give tips on the best strategies touse to land a spot in the school of your choice. You will also have a chance to meet parents whose children already attend public schools.

The event is sponsored by the San Francisco chapter of Parents for Public Schools, a national organization that builds excellent public schools and communities by mobilizing parents who reflect a diverse culture. Childcare will be provided.

For more information, call 415-642-6260. Or if you have access to the Internet, click on *www.parents4publicschools.com.*

Join the Fiesta on Bernal Hill

The Bernal neighborhood next door to Noe Valley and the Mission plans to reach new heights with its Fiesta on the Hill on Sunday, Oct. 10. The street fair, now in its 11th year, will be held on Cortland Avenue (between Bennington and Ellsworth) from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Organized by the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center and a team of 60 volunteers, the event will include such homespun activities as a pumpkin patch, a petting zoo, and face painting. Food booths will be stocked with gourmet treats, including Southern barbecue and Thai and Filipino snacks.

Bands for a variety of musical tastes will perform throughout the day. So far, festival organizers have booked salsa band Los Compas, Latin rockers Mystique, the jazz ensemble Johnny Serrano, and a Celtic rock band called Annwn.

Last year, more than 10,000 neighbors and visitors turned out for the fair, according to Shella Brenner of the Neighborhood Center. "People really appreciate the Fiesta because it is an alcohol-free event, and its focus is on the family," she says. "Families like the nice, safe environment we provide for kids."

Fair-goers also enjoy the down-home atmosphere. "There is no entrance fee, and we try to keep vendor fees lower than other street fairs to encourage artists and mom-and-pop enterprises to participate. We try to keep prices at our booths low, too. For instance, face painting is only $1 per child, so if you have a few kids, they can all participate at an affordable level."

For more details on the Fiesta, contact the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center at 415-206-2140.

Garden Benefit for AIDS Fund

More than 150 people are expected to attend the second annual AIDS benefit luncheon sponsored by the Parker House Guest House and Gardens. The event will take place from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 9, at the Parker House bed-and-breakfast inn, located at 520 Church St. between 17th and 18th streets.

"We always pick the second Saturday

Continued on Next Page

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SHORT TAKES

Continued from Previous Page

of October since it is the best weekend of the year for people to be outside and enjoy the gardens," says Bill Boeddiker, co-owner of Parker House. "Great food, live entertainment, and a terrific beneficiary should make this our most successful fundraising event ever."

Supervisor Mark Leno and the 2223 Restaurant on Market Street are also co-hosting the afternoon, which is expected to raise $15,000 for the San Francisco AIDS Emergency Fund, a nonprofit organization that assists low-income and homeless people living with HIV.

"The funds raised from this event will help a large number of our clients with their emergency rent, phone, and utility needs," says Clark Sealy of the Fund.

The benefit will kick off with a buffet prepared and donated by 2223. Desserts will be provided by Montage Restaurant. During the luncheon, guests will be entertained with classical music from the Sara Knutson Quartet and standup comedy by Marilyn Pittman, who has performed at Josie's Cabaret and appeared in the film *EdTV*.

In addition, attendees will receive free gifts and the chance to win door prizes. Tickets are $75 per person, and, notes Boeddiker, "One hundred percent of the proceeds go directly to the AIDS Emergency Fund."

For reservations, call the Parker House Guest House at 415-621-3222.

Artists Open Studio Doors

Here's your chance to discover the emerging artists for the 21st century. During each weekend in October, more than 700 local artists — some just starting out and some established — will open their studios to the public from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. as part of the 24th annual San Francisco Open Studios.

This year, 55,000 people are expected to attend Open Studios and purchase more than $1.1 million in art, including painting, sculpture, photography, prints, jewelry, drawings, and wearable art. They'll visit all types of studios around San Francisco — from converted warehouse buildings and shipyards to living rooms and modern live-work spaces.

Throughout the month, the SomARTS Gallery, at 934 Brannan St., will display one piece of artwork from each participating artist, creating a "visual directory" of the show. The gallery is open Tuesday through Friday from noon to 4 p.m., and on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. An opening reception will be held Friday, Oct. 1, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

During the weekend of Oct. 2–3, studios will be open in the Richmond, Sunset, North Beach, Russian Hill, Pacific Heights, the Haight, Western Addition, Hayes Valley, Marina, and Fort Mason.

The following weekend, Oct. 9 – 10, will be Noe Valley's turn (as well as the Castro, Mission, Bernal Heights, and Mount Davidson). Among the artists opening their doors in Noe Valley are Sherrod Blankner, Andre Castello, Robert Dunahay, Karen Gellert, Marge and William Hanson, Michael Markowitz, Linda Saytes, Eric Scheib, Susan Sternau, and Jenny and Henry Sultan.

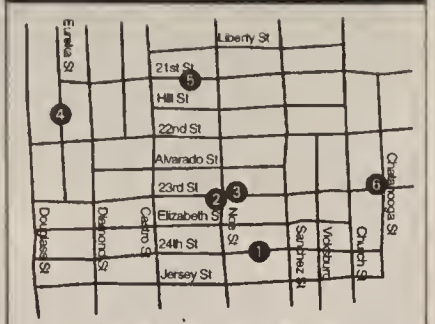
Sherrod Blankner provided the *Voice* with a map showing the six artists closest to 24th and Noe streets. "Food and drink are often a part of the shows," she says, "so come by and have some cheese and talk to the artists."

On Oct. 16–17, artists in Potrero Hill, South of Market, Civic Center, and the Bayview will be featured. And on the last weekend, Oct. 23–24, the Hunters Point Shipyard artists will open their doors.

S.F. Open Studios '99 is sponsored by the nonprofit group ArtSpan. Free maps are available at bookstores and coffeehouses around the Bay Area. For information, click on *www. sfopenstudios.com* or call ArtSpan at 415-861-9838.

This month's Short Takes were written by Kathy Dalle-Molle and Heidi Anderson.

1999 Open Studios Artists in Noe Valley



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2. Linda Saytes
1003-B Noe Street (at 23d)
3. Susan Sternau
3992 23rd Street (btwn Noe and Sanchez)
4. Karen Gellert
499 Eureka Street (btwn 21st and 22nd)
5. Robert Dunahay
3825 21st Street (btwn Castro and Noe)
6. Michael Markowitz
3747 23rd Street (at Chatanooga)

Twenty-fourth Street painter Sherrod Blankner drew up this map showing some of the Noe Valley artists who will be opening their studios Oct. 9–10. Call ArtSpan at 861-9838 for a complete list.

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Let BYLINES Be BYLINES

Farewell to Noe Valley

By Larry Beresford

FOR 18 OF MY 19 YEARS in San Francisco, I lived within or at the fringes of Noe Valley, which is named for Jose de Jesus Noe, the last Mexican *alcalde* or mayor of the city that became San Francisco. From 1846 to 1852, Noe owned a vast, undeveloped tract of land called Rancho San Miguel, which included one-sixth of present-day San Francisco and all of Noe Valley and surrounding areas. I spent some of my Noe Valley sojourn just across the neighborhood line (although still within Noe's rancho), first in the Fairmount District of Glen Park and more recently in the Castro above 20th.

But wherever I hung my hat, I saw Noe Valley as the quintessentially charming San Francisco neighborhood, with the *Noe Valley Voice* its perfect small-town newspaper, whose narrowly prescribed parochialism was an essential part of its charm. Recently, however, I've been forced to confront new realities—in the neighborhood's changing character as well as in my own life.

In June, my wife and I filled a dumpster with old junk, then the back of a Bekins van with newer junk, and moved to Washington, D.C., to pursue new career opportunities. We hope to return to the Bay Area someday, but we fear that Noe Valley will be all but unrecognizable—based on today's insane real estate trends.

At the risk of becoming a cliché, I now tell friends that the old neighborhood ain't what it used to be. "You should have seen it back when it was great," I say, sounding just like the people I met when I first moved west in the spring of 1980, hitchhiking out of Minneapolis.

Noe Valley, they explained when I arrived in San Francisco, is where the hippies from the Haight-Ashbury settled in the early 1970s after they graduated from the acid tests and took real jobs. They moved over the hill to take advantage of the cheap Victorians, much as the gays were doing in the Castro, the adjacent neighborhood to the north.

The valley was reputed to be the home of Carey, a rogue made famous in the Joni Mitchell song, as well as countless musicians, artists, actors, and filmmakers. Singer Bobby McFerrin, who came to fame soon after I saw him perform at a *Voice* benefit at the old Finnegan's Wake bar on 24th Street, and comic Robin Williams, already world famous, could be seen casually dining at 24th Street restaurants like Panos and the Acme Metal Spinning Works Cafe.

One of my first memories of Noe Valley, before I moved to the neighborhood, was coming home on the streetcar from a temporary typing job downtown (followed by drinks in the erstwhile beatnik haunts of North Beach) to a livingroom sofa I was occupying on Corbett Street. I somehow got on the J-line by mistake, not realizing that it didn't cross Castro like the other green torpedoes. But I didn't discover my error until we'd coasted through the shadowy concrete canyons beyond Mission Dolores Park. After I got off at 24th Street, I had to walk back to Market along Church. As I peered up at the towering houses on my left and the dark and mysterious Victorians sloping down the hill to my right, I wondered how such a different world could exist just a few blocks away from the hustle and bustle of the Castro.

In June, my wife and I filled a dumpster with old junk, then the back of a Bekins van with newer junk, and moved to Washington, D.C. We hope to return to the Bay Area someday, but we fear that Noe Valley will be all but unrecognizable — based on today's insane real estate trends.

Then there was Little Italy, which always had a line out the door in the early days and even expanded to Little Italy II across the street for a short while. Maybe it was the line or the anticipation, but it seemed then as if Italian food couldn't get any better. The place across the street, now Barney's Hamburgers, was once the delightful Maggie's Restaurant, serving eclectic, eccentric San Francisco continental cuisine in a lovely Victorian home.

The original walls and rooms had not yet been torn out when Maggie's occupied the building, and the tiny bar had a sublime atmosphere. That's where I dined one night in 1981, after interviewing for a shared apartment on Chattanooga, listed at Roommate Referral on Cole Street. The apartment became my first address in Noe Valley after my fifth move during my first year in town.

I was replacing a guy named Bob, who was off to Burma to study Buddhism. Six months later, he turned up to reclaim his La-Z-Boy recliner for visiting Burmese monks to sleep on. But he bequeathed me a listing kitchen table and a motley collection of dishes, pots, and pans.

By then I had a new roommate, Mike, who was writing his Stanford Ph.D. thesis in statistics while sampling the San Francisco experience. Many evenings Mike and I caught the jazz shows at the venerable but crowded Keystone Corner in North Beach, or heard performers such as Jessica Williams, doing her Thelonius Monk thing, at the Noe Valley Music Series at the Ministry.

Mike briefly got me into a garage band with some college friends in Palo Alto, but he also studied salsa rhythms at the Mission Cultural Center—doggedly pounding out his lessons on a rented piano on our back porch.

Through a newsletter production class at Media Alliance at Fort Mason, I met *Voice* alumnus Deborah Quilter, who introduced me to the paper. I wrote dozens of features for the *Voice* over the next decade, and most of them were opportunities to learn more about my adopted home. My favorite subjects were Noe Valley history and up-and-coming writers and musicians—ranging from mystical poet Diane Frank to Asian-American playwright Philip Gotanda to hip-hop artist Dominique DiPrima. I interviewed neighborhood old-timers and pored over old documents and photographs in the Main Library's California Room, sternly presided over by city historian Gladys Hansen. Neighborhood guide Judith Lynch, who wrote the history column in the *Voice* before I came along, gave me several walking tours, showing me the characteristic touches of San Francisco's master home builder, Fernando Nelson, whose influence lasted from the Victorian era well into this century.

One of my first assignments, in the fall of 1981, was to accompany Lynch on a tour of the architectural sights along the J-line—which had been inaugurated by legendary Mayor "Sunny Jim" Rolph on Aug. 11, 1917. Later, "Cruisin' the Castro" guide Trevor Hailey explained to me how our neighboring district gained its identity as a gay mecca.

LESSONS CAN BE LEARNED from history, even on the scale of columns in the *Noe Valley Voice*. If San Francisco's voters understood the fabulously corrupt history of their city's mayors, would they make smarter choices at the ballot box? If, a few years ago, the opponents of renaming Army Street as Cesar Chavez had thoroughly researched the origins of "Army," would they have maintained their staunch resistance? They failed to understand how casually 19th-century developer John M. Horner planted his identity on the landscape—or, rather, on the surveyor's map, since the neighborhood was still largely goat farms when he plotted the streets. In his haste to fill out the grid, he'd dubbed three streets after himself, John, M, and Horner; one after his wife; and two others after branches of the military, Army and Navy. (The only one that remains is Elizabeth.)

Another historical connection was Jane Cryan, the president and founder of the Society for the Preservation and Appreciation of San Francisco Refugee Shacks. Jane lived in an apartment on Randall Street with a stunning view of the city—and of Noe Valley. But she wished to move into an authentic earthquake shack. These 10′ x 14′ wood shacks had been built in long rows in the parks for $100 each, to house San Franciscans made homeless by the 1906 earthquake. Later, some of the cottages were hauled off to empty lots to become starter homes. When Cryan moved out of her place on Randall, I arranged to move in, so that I might enjoy eight years of the stupendous view.

For me, Noe Valley is also firmly associated with What's for Dessert, the cafe on Church Street opened by Mervyn Mark while I was living across the street—and closed the same month I left town *(see July/August 1999 Voice)*. Mervyn's cafe quickly became my second home, where I would write first drafts over coffee and scones several mornings a week. I didn't know then that Mervyn would someday be my brother-in-law. My future wife, Rose, was helping him launch his cafe's operations in the evenings, while I spent mornings at a window table. Much later, we met at a creative writing workshop.

I also witnessed the rise of coffee mania and the spread of chain outlets on 24th Street—which was once the home of two grand movie theaters—and the demise in my own time of wonderfully funky restaurants like the Acme, the Meat Market Coffeehouse, and the Noe Valley Bar and Grill. All of a sudden, one day the neighborhood was overrun by babies in strollers, many of them pushed by middle-aged professional women who had graduated from Leslie Kirk Campbell's journal-writing workshop, "Journey Into Motherhood."

Later the real estate madness swamped Noe Valley and even dampened the pages of the *Voice*. It is probably as pointless for me to complain about the migration of rich young Silicon Valley entrepreneurs into the former artists' haven of Noe Valley as it is for embittered Irish and Italian Eureka Valley old-timers quoted in a recent documentary on the Castro to complain about the influx of gays into their former enclave. Yet it also seems obvious, from my current vantage point, that the San Francisco charm the Internet carpetbaggers have come to purchase will be smothered in their embrace. I can see the ad now: *Welcome to Disney's quaint old San Francisco! Purchase your tickets for the Noe Valley Ride at Rite Aid, Radio Shack, or the newly opened Home Depot on 24th Street.*

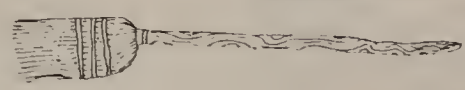
Another center of neighborhood memories is from the years I worked for the old Hospice of San Francisco, which once had offices on 30th Street, and helping to raise funds to open Coming Home Hospice, a national-model AIDS residence on Diamond Street. Now I work for the National Hospice Organization, having left behind a lot of friends and memories.

I promised Rose that we wouldn't have to stay in Washington more than five years. When that time comes, will we be able to defy Thomas Wolfe and go home again? □

Have we seen the enemy and it is us? Or is there hope for small-town Noe Valley? Please write the Voice *at 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114; or e-mail us at* jaxvoice@aol.com. *Writer Larry Beresford would also like to hear from you. Send e-mail to him at* 103672.675@compuserve.com.

LET BYLINES BE BYLINES

The *Noe Valley Voice* welcomes your first-person essays, particularly those with neighborhood themes. Mail manuscripts, which should be less than 800 words, to Bylines, *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or you can e-mail *jaxvoice @aol.com*. (Include your essay in the body of the e-mail, not as an attachment, please.) Also, give us your full name, address, and phone number, and an SASE if you'd like your manuscript returned. Thanks.



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BERNAL HEIGHTS Neighbors

PHOTO BY DONNA PELTZ

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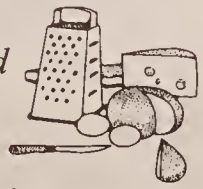

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They're Back!

Who are all these people, dressed like tourists? Our loyal readers, that's who!

This summer they harvested lots of travel memories—sure to amuse family and friends when they share stories around the campfire this fall. There's little doubt the tale that will garner the biggest laughs will be how silly they felt peeking over newsprint, as Vikings, Dubliners, and park rangers looked on.

Those globetrotting Lindohls, Bonnie and Raymond, Noe Valley residents since 1963, do get around. During a two-week cruise to the capitals of Scandinavia (including Berlin), Bonnie snapped Raymond in the Vigeland Sculpture Park in Oslo, Norway. Skoal!

Even if it's just to spend a day in Mendocino, Claudia Boudreau, Noe Valleyans Nina Youkelson, and Miriam Blaustein know not to leave 24th Street without their *Voice*.

If you can believe it, two blokes from Noe Valley, Patrick Anderson of Sanchez Street and his grand uncle, Bob King, who lives on Cesar Chavez, traveled all the way to Ireland's Blarney Castle just to read the *Voice* side by side. (Thanks, Winifred, for sending proof.)

Can the *Voice* be used as a parachute? Jeremy (left) and Josh Moser of Church Street, sit precariously close to the rim of the Grand Canyon, one of 10 national parks their very cool parents, David and Barbara, took them to this summer on a five-week vacation.

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October 1999

OCT. 1: The ROVA SAXOPHONE Quartet performs its last San Francisco concert of the millennium! 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

OCT. 1–29: Play BINGO at St. Paul's every Friday, starting at 7 pm. Parish Hall, Church St. at 28th. 648-7538.

OCT. 1–31: A group ART EXHIBIT, "Survivalist," features a reception on Oct. 17, 7 pm, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Loma Prieta Earthquake. Gallery hours: Tues.–Sat., 11 am–5 pm. Southern Exposure Gallery, 401 Alabama St. 863-2141.

OCT. 1–NOV. 1: Ruby's CLAY STUDIO exhibits a group show through Oct. 12, Charles Belgrade's bowls Oct. 13–19, and a pre-Christmas pottery sale by Kent Tool and Rob Olson Oct. 21–Nov. 1. 552A Noe St. 558-9819.

OCT. 2: Ellis Act EVICTIONS are the topic at the Noe Tenants Association meeting. 1–2:30 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 282-5525.

OCT. 2: MYSTERY writer Dianne Day signs her fifth Fremont Jones book, *Death Train to Boston*. 3–4 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

OCT. 2–22: The Randall Museum's Saturday workshops include "Scary Puppets" (Oct. 2), "BAT DAY" (Oct. 9), "Magnificent Monster Masks" (Oct. 16), and "Spiders" (Oct. 23). 12:30–2:30 pm; Bat Day 11 am–3 pm. 199 Museum Way, 554-9600.

OCT. 2–23: The Recreation and Park Department sponsors GIRLS' SOCCER for ages 6 and older on Saturdays, and an NFL Punt, Pass, and Kick competition for boys and girls ages 8 to 15 on Oct. 2. For information, call 753-7029.

OCT. 2 & 3: The Marsh's Growing Stage presents Stephanie Leverage retelling four FOLK TALES from different parts of the world, *Puss in Boots and Other Cat Tails*. 2:30 pm. 1062 Valencia St. 826-5750, ext. 2.

Kids are invited to "hang out" all day at Bat Day, Oct. 9, at the Randall Museum. *Photo by John Dillon.*

OCT. 3: All pets are welcome at the Blessing of the ANIMALS at Bethany Church (bring leashes and carriers). 11 am 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

OCT. 3–31: The GOLDEN GATE PARK BAND performs Sunday concerts at 1 pm in the Music Concourse. 666-7107.

OCT. 4 & 9: Come meet CLINT REILLY at an Oct. 4 Town Hall at MCC Church, 150 Eureka St., 7:30 pm. Reilly will also be at Walgreen's on Castro at 11:30 am Oct. 9, attending the Noe Valley Merchants Association hayride. 695-3901.

OCT. 5: The Insect Discovery Lab brings LIVE INSECTS to the Mission Branch Library. 10:30 am. 300 Bartlett St. Reservations required: 695-5090.

OCT. 5: FILMS for preschoolers screen at 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

OCT. 5: Inspector John Rebus is back in Ian Rankin's new MYSTERY, *Dead Souls*. Noon. S.F. Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

OCT. 5: Children's book author Christopher Paul Curtis will sign copies of *BUD, NOT BUDDY* at Cover to Cover. 7 p.m. 3812 24th St. 282-8080.

OCT. 6: The Adventist HEALTH VAN offers blood pressure testing and cholesterol screening. 10 am–4 pm. Bell Market parking lot. 775-2570.

OCT. 6: LINDA BARNES introduces her eighth Carlotta Carlyle mystery, *Flashpoint*. 3–4 pm. S.F. Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

OCT. 6: Robert Sabuda demonstrates his POPUP BOOK *The Moveable Mother Goose* at Cover to Cover bookstore. 7 p.m. 3812 24th St. 282-8080.

OCT. 6, 20 & 27: Songs and fingerplays are featured at the Noe Valley Library's LAPSITS for infants and toddlers. 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

OCT. 8: DONATE clothing, books, toys, and household goods to benefit the Noe Valley Ministry's Flea Market Oct. 9. Bring items to 1021 Sanchez St. from 2 to 9 pm, or call 282-2317 for pickup.

OCT. 8 & 22: Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE) offers OPERA AFTERNOONS, video screenings, and more for those 55 and up. 1:30 pm. 1874 Market St. 255-2937.

OCT. 9: The Noe Valley Ministry's FLEA MARKET is a super sale of neighborhood miscellany, a bake sale, and a gourmet luncheon at the NVM Cafe. 10 am–4 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

OCT. 9: Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals sponsor a HAYRIDE on 24th Street, in conjunction with sidewalk sales at many shops. Hop on the wagon 11 am to 3 pm in front of Walgreen's at Castro and Jersey. 642-6569.

OCT. 9: The Parker House Guest House FALL BENEFIT luncheon, cohosted by Supervisor Mark Leno, raises support for the AIDS Emergency Fund. 1–5 pm. 520 Church St. 621-3222.

OCT. 9 & 10: San Francisco OPEN STUDIOS for the Noe, Castro, Mission, Bernal, and Mount Davidson neighborhoods features a wealth of local talent. Call 861-9838 for citywide map.

Sonia and Disappear Fear will appear here at the Noe Valley Music Series Oct. 23. *Photo by Jim Marshall.*

OCT. 10: The 11th annual Laidley Street BLOCK SALE offers clothes, furniture, and other treasures from 10 am to 4 pm. First three blocks of Laidley, and the southern end of Noe Street.

OCT. 10: Bernal Heights 11th annual FIESTA ON THE HILL features musicians, artists, food, and activities for all ages, including a New Technology pavilion and an Alien Eyeball Toss. 11 am–6 pm. Cortland Avenue. 206-2140.

OCT. 10: Prepare and enjoy an Ayurvedic vegetarian meal at a COOKING CLASS sponsored by the Integral Yoga Institute. 11 am.–2 pm. 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

OCT. 10: A gala benefit concert featuring soprano Nicolle Foland, cellist Emil Miland, and pianist Jake Heggie begins the season for the Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC Series. 5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9444.

OCT. 13: Mayoral candidates Eng, Felzer, Norton, Ventresca, Manuel, Bermudez, Ascarrunz, Reid, and O'Hara are scheduled to DEBATE at an event hosted by Tom Ammiano. 12:30–2 pm. Diego Rivera Theater, City College, 50 Phelan Ave. 864-6478.

OCT. 14: The Older Women's League (OWL) hosts its 11th annual "Wonderful Outstanding Women" luncheon. Noon. Gabbiano's Restaurant, 1 Ferry Plaza. Call 989-4422 for reservations. The monthly meeting is Oct. 23, 10:30 am.

OCT. 15: "Science Guy" BILL NYE comes to Noe Valley to sign his new book, *The Big Blue Ocean*. 7 p.m. Cover to Cover, 3812 24th St. 282-8080.

OCT. 15 & 16: "Two Nights in Tucson," a BENEFIT dinner hosted by the Lively Arts Workshop, features the Ronstadt Cousins variety band. 7–10 pm. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 101 Goldmine Drive. 333-9572.

OCT. 16: Cover to Cover holds a WORKSHOP, "Making Books with Children." 10 a.m. 3812 24th St. 282-8080.

OCT. 16: Margaret Wells discusses the KINDERGARTEN application process for kids entering school in 2000. 10 am–12:30 pm. Harvey Milk Elementary School, 4235 19th St. 642-6260.

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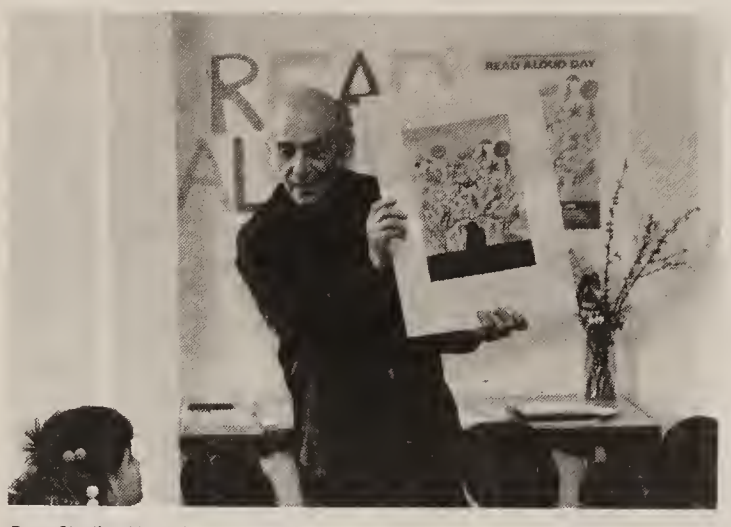

Remy Charlip will tell kids how he turns "books into theater and theater into books" at the Excelsior Library on Oct. 21. The 70-year-old painter and dancer will also be celebrated with a two-month exhibit starting with a reception Oct. 13 at the New Main. *Photo by Najib Joe Hakim.*

OCT. 16: MYSTERY writer Gary Phillips signs his new book, *The Jook*. 5–6 pm. S.F. Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

OCT. 16: Sultan Kahn and Rob Wasserman perform a CONCERT at 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series , 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

OCT. 16 & 17: Tim Baskerville exhibits his NIGHT PHOTOGRAPHS at the RayKo South Photo Center. 11 am–6 pm. 984 Folsom St. 495-3737.

OCT. 16 & 17: In a benefit for Dance Mission, Highly Unlikely Studios presents music and dance featuring Kunst Stoff's "Yannis Adoniou." 8 pm. 3316 24th St. 826-4441.

OCT. 19 & 26: The Noe Valley Library hosts STORY TIME for pre-schoolers ages 3 to 5. 10 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

OCT. 21: San Francisco author and illustrator REMY CHARLIP brings art and movement to the Excelsior Branch Library. 4 pm. 4400 Mission St. Call 337-4735; limited to 20 children.

OCT. 21: "Cheap Eats" columnist DAN LEONE discusses local dives, joints, and all-night cafes in *Eat This, San Francisco*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

OCT. 22: Come in costume to a MONSTER CONCERT to benefit the renovation of the organ at Bethany Church. Musicians from S.F. Winds of Freedom Band will play. 8 pm. 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

OCT. 22: "NOROTICS," Nori Kishi on cello and Nora Chiang, pianist, perform a concert of sonatas by Bach, Shostakovish, and Franck. 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

OCT. 22–NOV. 14: Random Acts Theater Company performs a modern, gender-bending version of Shakespeare's *HAMLET*. 8 pm, Fri., Oct. 22 & 29 and Nov. 5 & 12; Sat., Oct. 30 and Nov. 13; Sun., Oct. 24 and Nov. 14. Matinee 4 pm, Oct. 24. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 337-8963.

OCT. 23: Marcy Sheiner leads a workshop on WRITING book reviews, "Read and Love to Tell About It." 10 am–4 pm. The Writing Salon, 642-9793.

OCT. 23: Have Jokes Will Travel performs *Mommy and Daddy's COMEDY HOUR*, a benefit for the Bay Area Homebirth Collective. 3 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. (650) 266-8283.

OCT. 23: The Noe Valley Music Series hosts MUSIC by Sonia and Disappear Fear, plus the Manring/Kassin/Darter trio. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

OCT. 23: The POTRERO HILL FESTIVAL features music, comedy, and dance at 13 local venues, including a performance by Lavay Smith and Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers at the Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro St. 9 pm. 621-4455.

OCT. 24: The American Cancer Society holds its "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" WALK and fundraiser in Golden Gate Park. Register at Speedway Meadow, 8–9 am. Or call 877-906-7222.

OCT. 26: St. Luke's Hospital Auxiliary presents a luncheon and FASHION SHOW featuring new and vintage hats, to benefit the St. Luke's Emergency Department. Palace Hotel Ballroom. Call for res.: 641-6538.

OCT. 27: Storyteller Dave Ponkey relates EERIE TALES for ages 4 and older. 6:45 pm. Glen Park Library, 653 Chenery St. 337-4740.

OCT. 28: Richard Hansen of the Museum of the City of San Francisco will give a talk on the 1906 and 1989 EARTHQUAKES. 7 pm. Cannery, 3rd Floor, 2801 Leavenworth St. 750-9986.

OCT. 28: Upper Noe Neighbors sponsors a POLITICAL Q & A with the mayoral candidates, including Clint Reilly. 7:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. 285-0473.

OCT. 29: Upper Noe Recreation Center holds a HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL featuring games, prizes, and a costume parade. 3–6 pm. Day & Sanchez. 695-5011.

OCT. 29: The first concert in the Gertrude Fields series features the Mark Little Trio performing a tribute to BILL EVANS. 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

OCT. 30: The FAMILY HALLOWEEN FEST offers a tour of Dr. Randallstein's Laboratory and the Bone Room. Eeek. 11 am–3 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way, 554-9600.

OCT. 30: "BOO AT THE ZOO" is a Halloween event with trick-or-treating and a haunted nature trail. Costumes encouraged, but no masks, please (they could frighten the animals). 11 am–3 pm. San Francisco Zoo, 1 Zoo Road. 705-0761.

Thank You for Meeting Our Deadlines

The next *Noe Valley Voice*, the November 1999 issue, will hit the streets on **Oct. 28.** It will include calendar events for Nov. 1 to Dec. 2, 1999. Please send in your items by **Oct. 15.**

You can mail your notices to the *Noe Valley Voice* at 1021 Sanchez St., S.F., CA 94114. Or e-mail items to **jaxvoice@aol.com.**

For last-minute changes or questions, call Karol at 285-6347. We appreciate your keeping us informed.

OCT. 30: Radical economist Julianne Malveaux will discuss "The Corporate Stake in the Breast Cancer Epidemic" at a town meeting sponsored by BREAST CANCER ACTION 1–4 pm. First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. Tickets: 392-4400. BCA: 243-9301.

OCT. 31: The Real Food Company invites kids 12 and under to enter its fourth annual Halloween COSTUME CONTEST. Come by and have your picture taken. 3939 24th St. 282-9500.

OCT. 31 & NOV. 6 & 20: The INA CHALIS Opera Ensemble performs Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*. 4 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

NOV. 6: *Voice* columnist Janis Cooke Newman holds a TRAVEL WRITING workshop at Cover to Cover Books. 10 am–4 pm. 3812 24th St. 282-8080.

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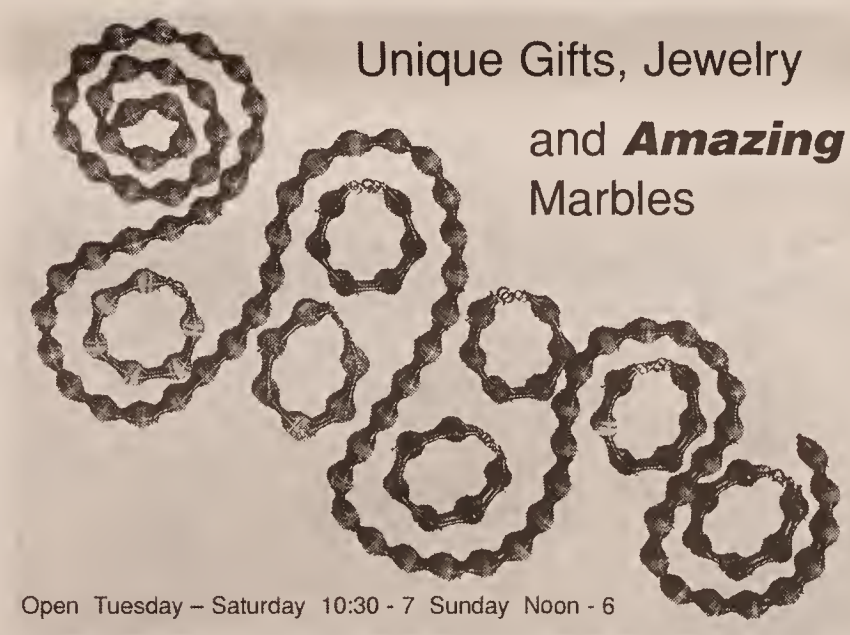

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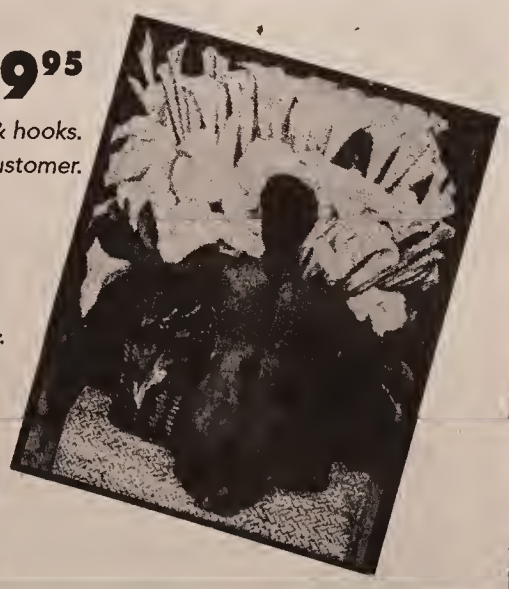

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Positively 24th Street

By Frank Holt

Slumbered 'neath sultry peaks
awaiting dawn's embrace
our little Champs Élysées
unveils her mirthful face.
Six a.m. Martha's bench
gentle whispers, weary eye
Spanish tongue, Irish brogue
under chili-peppered sky.

Sound erupts intrusively
worldly ways unfold
heels 'n' wheels a-galloping
pursuing scent of gold.
Streetlight's jammin' Dylan
Phoenix talking Joyce
comrades sharing silently
Valley's printed *Voice*.
Bright eyes dancing to 'n fro
24th in heat
sad eyes shaded 'neath a tree
whispering Street Sheet.
Seduced by morning's infancy
and mimosa's decadence
lovers saunter flauntingly
towards Savor's succulence.
Flower gatherers French Tulip
children rampant eyes
saliva dripping, furry face
sniffing Peasant Pies.
Aching limbs, Elisa's Spa
souls in harmony
J.P. tossing marinara
Little Italy.
Rover's, Noe's, Rat 'n' Raven
Dubliner, home from home
black libations, Liffey flowing
creamy heads, ocean foam.
J-Church screeches ... finally
welcome breeze, soft and warm
painted ladies leafy gold
sanctuary from the storm.
Darkness seeps seductively
poppies fold in silk embrace
silence hushed as infant's thought
candles dance with joyous grace.
beneath brightly burning stars
final neons wane and fade
children dream of truth and love
weary minds in slumber bathe.

Dublin's favorite son, James Joyce, is pretending not to notice Eileen Holt reading the *Voice* right under his nose. But Eileen's husband, Irishman Frank Holt, was so inspired by seeing the Noe news, he wrote a poetic tribute to his 11-year San Francisco hangout *(see "Positively 24th Street," above)*.

Are those Macfarlane boys, Noble and Peter of 19th Street, looking for rental car ads in the *Voice*? Perhaps they're wondering just how the heck they're supposed to get back down Mt. Pierce in Washington State. Thanks to Charles and Christiana Macfarlane for tagging along and snapping this breathtaking photo.

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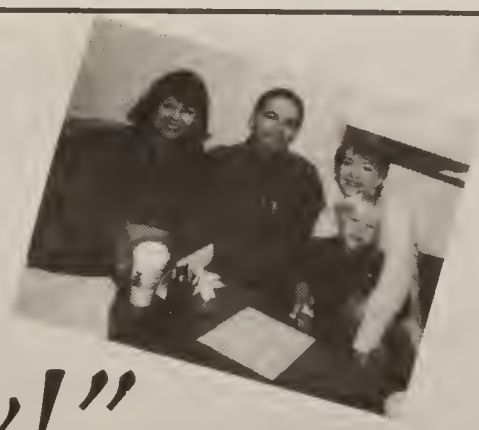

Sue previously represented us in our Cole Valley condo purchase four years ago. We enjoyed working with her then, so it made sense to ask her to help us sell and buy again!
Sue quickly found us a wonderful home in Marin. Then, with an accepted offer in Marin, Sue snapped into action. We sold our Cole Valley condo over the asking price, and with Sue's guidance, we were able to avoid any of the headaches of simultaneous closings.
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Rob, Jennifer and Micha Jigarjian – 2 time buyers & sellers of Sue's

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More Readers Write

Fearful she'll never be able to afford a double-wide pen, Bunny Kozuchowski keeps current on the local housing market in the *Noe Valley Voice*. She also relies on the *Voice* for informative articles that can be shredded into furniture. Clever Bunny!

Pamela Zilavy passes the time while waiting for a water taxi in Venice. Gondolas, like Muni buses, are rare, traveling in clusters and stopping only when blocked. At least in Venice, if you miss one, you can swim. Did you pack your water wings, Pamela?

Berkeley resident Alvin Warwas has two passions. Reading the *Noe Valley Voice* and investing in bars. Here he is in front of the Plough & Stars in Cambridge, Mass., a bar in which he shared ownership prior to launching Finnegan's Wake on 24th Street. Finnegan's—now reincarnated as the Rat & Raven—was *the* happening place in Noe Valley in the '70s. Alvin must be feeling a little nostalgic because he recently put in a bid to acquire the Rat & Rave. Sorry you came up empty, Alvin. But hope to see you down at the pub.

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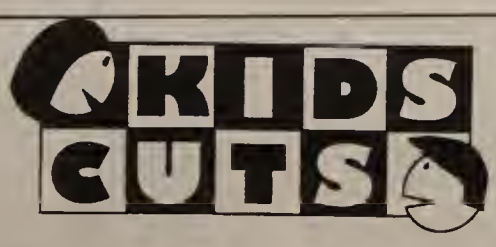

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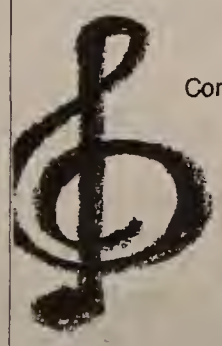

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NOE KIDS

Doing the Tourist Thing in Golden Gate Park

By Janis Cooke Newman

Golden Gate Park has so many sights and sounds, it's easy to forget how much fun it is to watch the boats glide by at Spreckles Lake.
Photo by Ken Newmon

I cannot believe I'm standing in front of the Conservatory of Flowers having my picture taken.

"Hurry up," I tell my husband Ken, who's fiddling with the camera.

"I'm trying to get Alex on the bike," he says.

A group of women in saris are snapping photos of one another with disposable cameras. They're having trouble keeping the gold-threaded edges of their skirts down in the wind.

A family speaking to one another in the soft vowels of the South wobbles by on roller blades. They're wearing so many knee and elbow pads they look like Power Rangers. I take off my bicycle helmet and pretend that the only reason I've stopped is to wipe some grease off my leg.

I am the kind of San Franciscan who would rather jump off the Golden Gate Bridge than be caught doing something touristy like walking on it. The only reason I've agreed to spend my Sunday morning in Golden Gate Park at the height of tourist season is to try out my son Alex's new bike. It's one of those kid-sized bikes with one wheel that attaches onto the back of an adult bicycle, and since this is his first outing, we had to go someplace relatively flat and traffic-free.

"Okay," Ken says, having at last captured my image with the white wings of the Conservatory flanking my head.

I hop onto my bike, narrowly missing a surrey full of German students who are pedaling as though this were the Autobahn.

Travel Writing Workshop

Noe Kids columnist Janis Cooke Newman will be teaching a one-day Travel Writing Workshop at Cover to Cover, 3812 24th St., on Saturday, Nov. 6. The class will cover all aspects of travel writing, including getting published. Janis' travel stories have appeared in the *Traveler's Tales* family travel book, as well as in *Backpacker, Country Living, Salon* magazine, and numerous newspapers. The class runs from 10 to 4, and the cost is $80. Call Cover to Cover, 415-282-8080, for details or to register.

We bicycle past the Asian Art Museum. On the flat lawn of the music concourse, two ancient Chinese men are practicing tai chi. They make me think of great birds—herons or egrets—dancing.

"Let's go to the Japanese Tea Garden," Ken suggests.

"But if we wait till 5:30, it's free," I tell him.

I believe that knowing this bit of information is what distinguishes the natives from the visitors.

"That's six hours from now," he says.

Inside the Tea Garden, purple iris bloom in koi ponds and sprays of heavenly bamboo arch over the paths. In front of a serene-looking Buddha, a group of 13-year-old girls who pronounce Golden Gate Park with the swallowed *r* of the Midwest are having their picture taken.

Four-year-old Alex climbs the ladder-like moon bridge as many times as we let him, and then we have jasmine tea served to us by waitresses in kimonos and split-toed socks. The tea tastes like perfume, the sun is slanting through the filigree leaves of the Japanese maples, and in spite of the fact that we are being crowded by a busload of, appropriately enough, Japanese tourists, this seems like the perfect place to be.

After the Tea Garden, we get back on our bikes and ride over to Spreckles Lake to watch the model boats.

All along the shore, grown men and small boys aim elaborate remote controls at the model yachts in the water. A couple of the men are wearing captain's hats. Ken and Alex wander over to watch a regatta of model sailboats compete in a miniature America's Cup race. I'm fascinated by a diminutive cruise ship. It has tiny people wearing Hawaiian leis, and can play the theme from *The Love Boat*.

Back on the road, we make the obligatory stop at the Bison Paddock to see the dusty and disinterested buffaloes. Then we pedal up past Anglers' Lodge to the Fly Casting Pools.

At the edges of the long concrete pools, fly fishermen and -women practice their casting. They whip their colorful lines behind them, letting them unfurl in wave patterns across the water. My husband explains to Alex the intricate differences between regular and roll casting. I'm mesmerized by the bright green and yellow lines tracing arcs in the sunlight.

Afterward, we continue along JFK Drive, heading toward the ocean. Scraps of fog float above us like gauze, and the air is filled with the damp cough-drop smell of eucalyptus trees. A couple wearing Stetson hats and cowboy boots stand on the curb taking deep breaths. I inhale the scent of the trees, and like the Texans, do not once worry that they are a non-native species.

At the Queen Wilhemina Tulip Gardens beneath the Dutch Windmill, the women in the saris are having much more difficulty holding their skirts down. The wind is blowing off the water, carrying a salt smell and the muffled barking of sea lions.

Ken insists on another picture. In this one, the wooden arms of the windmill are coming out of my head.

Alex runs around the flower beds for a while, and then we turn around and bike back to the sun.

We ride to Stow Lake, where we come upon what looks like a Victorian boating party. The men are wearing straw boaters and vests that button high on their chests. The women lift taffeta skirts with one hand and press down on the crowns of broad-brimmed picture hats with the other. We watch them setting out towards Strawberry Hill in little boats. The men row and the women trail ungloved hands in the water, gliding past two stocky Russian ladies who are having a hard time operating their pedal boat.

Later, as we pass the tennis courts, we can hear what sounds like hundreds of people laughing.

"I forgot," Ken says, "this is Comedy Day."

We push our bikes into Sharon Meadow, where we stand beside a couple with exceedingly white skin.

"That's Robin Williams up there," the man says, in an accent that makes me think of Guinness ale and peat fires.

His wife squints at the manic figure on the stage.

"Robin Williams," the man repeats, "free in the park. Sure, and isn't this a great city then?"

And while my husband offers to take a picture of the Irish couple with Robin Williams running around behind their heads, I wonder if next week, Alex would like to take his new bike on the Golden Gate Bridge. □

Noe Kids is a column about where to go and what to do with your kids. If there's a topic, activity, or outing you'd like to see covered, please e-mail Janis Cooke Newman at *jcn@linex.com*, or write to us at the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

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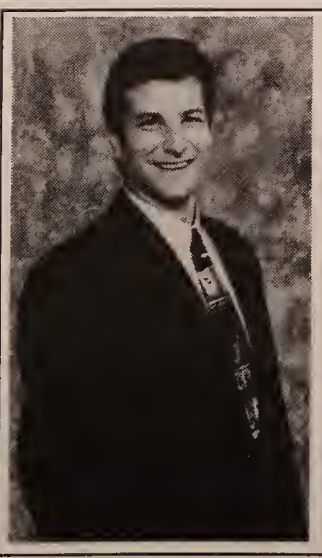

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The Fab Four: (from left) Mara, Rachel, Daniel, and Kathryn line up during prepotluck play at Billie-Rae's house in Bernal Heights. *Photo by Beverly Thorp*

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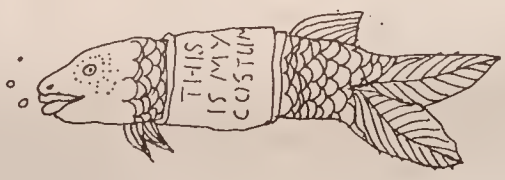

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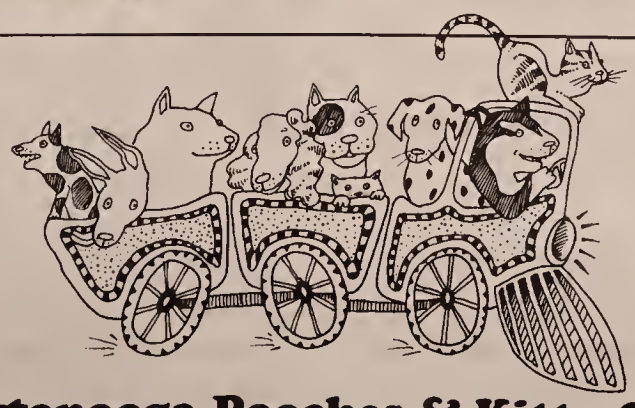

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MORE MOUTHS TO FEED

By Maire Farrington

Sophie Lian Hogan-Cytron

Baby Sophie Hogan-Cytron sure had a big welcoming committee: First there was mom Kelly Cytron *(right)* and partner Judy Hogan *(left)*. Then there were all the furry friends at home: Chauncey the dog and kitties Lucy, Sonoma, and Fifer *(not shown)*. *Photo by Beverly Tharp*

With her radiant smile and happy demeanor, Sophie Lian Hogan-Cytron is the picture of health and contentment. One would never guess that she encountered rough seas the first two weeks of life.

Mom Kelly Cytron had been laboring for 30 hours when Sophie's heartbeat began to slow down. An emergency cesarean was then performed. Sophie arrived at 11:37 a.m., on Jan. 14, 1999, weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces. Kelly's partner, Judy Hogan, was also on hand at Kaiser Permanente Medical Center to welcome their daughter into the world.

"I was able to watch when they brought the baby out," says Judy. "She was like a flower. The doctor grabbed the cord and unwrapped it from around her neck, and she started wailing, which was just a wonderful sight. And I cut the cord, so it was wonderful to be there for Kelly."

Kelly's sister, Kathy Cytron, who was part of the birth team, waited in a nearby room to hail her niece's arrival.

Two weeks later, Sophie underwent surgery to correct pyloric stenosis, a condition that causes dehydration.

"This is the second most common complication for babies, next to hernias," Kelly explains. "I was glad that it was like the millionth surgery they'd done on this. So the first two weeks were kind of crazy, plus I was dealing with the c-section. But you just sort of persevere. It was weird because it wasn't like I felt, Oh, here are all these setbacks. It was more like, Okay, we've just got to get through this."

Fortunately, Sophie was in the pink for her naming ceremony, held the following week. "Sophie" is in memory of Kelly's friend Sally Werner, who passed away just after Sophie was born. "I'm Jewish, and the tradition is one of keeping the spirit and the name alive. Lian is her middle name," notes Kelly. "It's Hebrew and it means 'my joy.' My grandma's name was Lillian [Hibbard], so I thought, That's perfect."

For the ceremony, Judy also selected a Hebrew name, "Morasha," in honor of her grandmother, Marie Williams. "I was so close to my grandmother," says Judy. "It means gift."

Lately, she says, "I've been calling Sophie 'Sopapilla' [after the Mexican pastry], because she's so sweet."

Sophie has light brown eyes and sported a full head of hair at birth, which is now dark blond, similar to Judy's. Judy, who is in the process of legally adopting Sophie, reports, "Someone told me, 'Oh Judy, she looks like you.' But I don't know how," she laughs.

People also think Sophie's temperament is closer to Judy's, "which is funny," says Judy. "I'm the calm one, sort of mellow and even-tempered. Kelly's a lot more active and always on the move."

The truth is, says Kelly, their daughter "is her own being. She has her own personality and soul, but at the same time she has a mix of our traits and personalities. She's happy and easygoing. And in a good way, she's going to be a little pistol. She's going to be very adventuresome. I was the same way. I had no fear."

Sophie loves the great outdoors and recently enjoyed some hiking in Tahoe. "I'll have her in the Baby Björn [carrier], and she just smiles and looks at the view," Kelly says. And she's jet-setted off to Los Angeles and Denver to meet the relatives.

"We've both said from day one, 'This is a little girl who knows what she wants,'" adds Kelly. "Ever since she was tiny, she's been alert to what's going on around her and very curious. She likes variety. We joke about her head being on a spring, like those little Kewpie dolls."

Judy, 49, and Kelly, 39, met seven years ago through a mutual friend. "We hung out first, and played tennis," Kelly relates. "We worked near each other so we'd meet for lunch a lot. Then one night I just decided, it's Judy that I want to be with." The couple lived on Chenery Street before buying the house on Eureka Street where they've lived for 3½ years.

"Thanks to Bill Clinton," Judy is eligible for four months of family medical leave from her job as a LAN (local area network) analyst for Wells Fargo Bank. "I took the first two months with Sophie off, which was wonderful," she says. "Just to be on her schedule and not to have to worry about work was real nice."

Kelly, a public relations consultant turned full-time mom, worked from home during the pregnancy and will continue the arrangement as she eases her way back into the work world.

Sophie and Kelly's morning routine includes escorting Judy to the 24th Street BART Station. Then, seated in her stroller, Sophie may cruise back through the neighborhood with Mom, perhaps stopping at Noe Courts or Day Street Park to schmooze with their pals. Jaunts to the Museum of Modern Art and a "Boogie to the Beat" music class at Natural Resources round out her cultural education.

At the end of the day, "the first thing I do when I come in is play with her," Judy says. "She doesn't get to see me a lot, so we're still bonding. I think she's still trying to figure out who I am."

Sophie has befriended the family dog, Chauncey, and the family's three cats, Fifer, Sonoma, and Lucy. She loves to hear the cats meow, "and she always reaches and grabs their fur," Judy says. "Chauncey, our dog, lays next to her, and she'll kind of pound on him. He's very good with her."

She's becoming a part of the Eureka Street young set, too. "We really love this neighborhood for raising kids," Kelly says, pointing out that three other families on the block have babies within six months of Sophie's age.

"We appreciate the diversity," Judy adds. "That helped us make our decision on bringing up a baby as a same-sex couple, because I think she'll fit right in, no matter where she is. This is a very open community. We've never felt anything other than that.

"I feel very fortunate," she continues. "I prayed that we'd have a happy baby, and healthy, of course, and we've gotten both."

"I feel really glad that we're both able to be there for her," Kelly says. "We're going to spoil her with love." □

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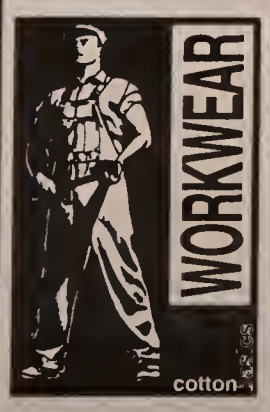

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Your new reading list at the Noe Valley–Sally Brunn Library, provided by librarians Roberta Greifer and Carol Small, includes a book about the heightened pace of the Information Age and two children's stories exploring Native American life. Besides books and magazines, the branch gives access to old issues of the *Noe Valley Voice*, and a peaceful deck and garden to read them in. Hours are Tuesdays, 10 to 9; Wednesdays, 1 to 9; Thursdays, 10 to 6; Fridays, 1 to 6; and Saturdays, noon to 6. The library is located at 451 Jersey St. Questions? Call 415-695-5095.

Adult Fiction

◈ In ***Cold Hit,*** a thriller by prosecutor Linda Fairstein, a silk-clad corpse tied obscenely to a ladder lands upon Manhattan's shores.

◈ Straddling the traditions of India and the strangeness of a new country, the stories in Jhumpa Lahiri's ***Interpreter of Maladies*** speaks to the "foreigner" in all of us.

◈ Beginning with a Valentine's Day wedding, ***Midnight Champagne,*** by A. Manette Ansay, examines the hidden complexities inherent in romantic and familial love.

Adult Nonfiction

◈ Containing 160 striking color photos, ***Art of the Hopi,*** by Lois and Jerry Jacka, examines the history, culture, and spirituality of the Hopi as manifested in their art.

◈ In ***Blind Eye,*** James B. Stewart describes how a psychopathic doctor, protected by the medical establishment, gets away with multiple murders.

◈ From sex to timekeeping, ***Faster,*** by James Gleick, addresses the acceleration of living in our modern technocratic age.

◈ In ***How Do We Know When It's God: A Spiritual Memoir,*** novelist Dan Wakefield examines his own life and faith.

Annotations by Roberta Greifer

Films for Kids

◈ The library shows ***films*** for children ages 3 to 5 on Tuesday, Oct. 5, at 10 and 11 a.m.

Preschool Story Time

◈ Kids 3 to 5 are invited to the library's ***preschool story time,*** starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays Oct. 19 and 26.

Infant and Toddler Lapsits

◈ You and your little ones can sing nursery rhymes and lullabies at the ***lapsits*** held at 7 p.m. Wednesday evenings Oct. 6, 20, and 27.

Children's Fiction

◈ George Ella Lyon's brief text and Ann W. Olson's beautiful photographs team up to describe a lovely outdoor walk in ***Counting on the Woods.*** *Ages 4 to 6.*

◈ Emily finally feels comfortable staying overnight at Grandma's house—and having a wise, understanding grandmother certainly helps—in ***Emily Just in Time,*** by Jan Slepian. *Ages 4 to 6.*

◈ It is hard for Hannah to wait, but she finally has a chance to enjoy some "quality time" with her parent in ***When Mama Gets Home,*** by Marisabina Russo. *Ages 4 to 6.*

◈ Floyd and Wendell offer to help a friend at school who's lost a hat, and this leads them to all kinds of adventures in ***The Lost and Found,*** by Mark Teague. *Ages 5 to 6.*

◈ Although his parents are divorced, Michael maintains a close, loving relationship with each of them in ***As the Crow Flies,*** by Elizabeth Winthrop. *Ages 5 to 8.*

◈ Two Native American boys, Benny Len and Stanley, can tolerate their boarding school experience more easily after they find a way to go home occasionally in ***Home to Medicine Mountain,*** by Chiori Santiago. *Ages 7 to 10.*

◈ A young girl's feelings about living among Natives gradually change over time, as do her feelings about going back to live among white people, in ***Trouble's Daughter: The Story of Susanna Hutchinson, Indian Captive,*** by Katherine Kirkpatrick. *Ages 10 and up.*

Children's Nonfiction

◈ The artistic careers of Maurice Sendak, William Steig, and a few other "shining stars" of children's literature are described in ***A Caldecott Celebration: Six Artists and Their Paths to the Caldecott Medal,*** by Leonard S. Marcus. *Ages 6 and up.*

Annotations by Carol Small

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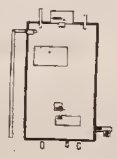
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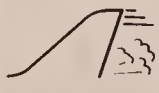
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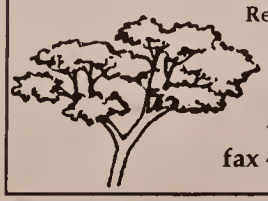
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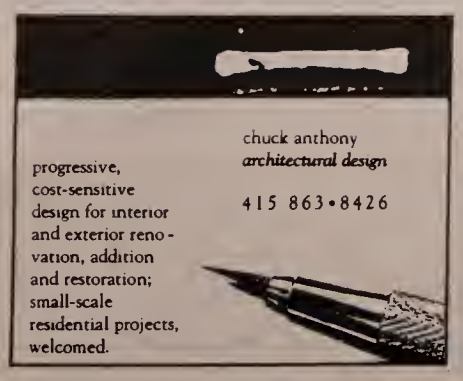

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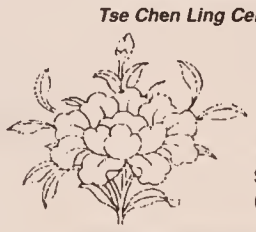

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Illustrated Reminiscences by Florence Holub

This Exciting Era

A lot of astral activity went on this year. Did you see any of it? There was a partial lunar eclipse where the shadow of the earth took a bite out of the moon. Then there was a total solar eclipse where the moon moved between the earth and the sun, blotting out the sun except for its flaring corona. Meanwhile, the moon cast a small round shadow on the Central Asian landscape. We watched it on television.

Also, our planet witnessed a spectacular meteor shower. (Alas, it could not be seen from our fog-bound metropolis.)

I remember seeing one in the 1940s when we lived in a farmhouse outside Walnut Creek (before it became the suburbs). It must have occurred in late summer because I recall standing over a hot stove all day, preserving a bumper crop of tomatoes. It was evening when I screwed on the last Mason jar lid and went outside to cool off. Then I was treated to a magical apparition such as I have never seen before or since. It looked as if the sky were happily flying asunder with swarms of shooting stars. The light show continued for hours.

Only this year I learned that it was the Perseids meteor shower, the fragments of a steadily disintegrating meteor, our most reliable annual shower (around Aug. 12). San Franciscans rarely get a chance to see it, unless we travel far from the city's bright lights.

The moon, on the other hand, gets our regular attention because it is so big and beautiful rising over the Bay. The moon is thought to be the first object in the heavens studied by early man (and woman). Hunters and gatherers needed to know when the plants and animals that were their livelihood would appear.

I imagine a caveman trying to measure time by scratching a line in a bone with a sharp rock at each new moon. Since there is a new moon every 28 days, 13 scratches would signal the end of the lunar year. (Believe it or not, this system is slightly more accurate than our solar year.)

Archaeologists have unearthed several ancient relics that support this idea. One is a 25,000-year-old carving of a woman called the Venus of Laussel. The Venus holds a crescent-shaped horn that has 13 lines scratched in it. Another is a 32,000-year-old piece of bone with small pits carved at different times. The pits appear to mirror the phases of the moon. These two examples suggest the beginning steps in humans' efforts to fathom the mysterious night sky.

Florence and Leo celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary this summer by stargazing on television, moongazing at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art's commemoration of the 1969 Apollo 11 moon landing, and food-grazing at Eric's Restaurant on Church Street.

When I was a young girl, sometimes at night when I went to bed and sleep did not come, I would scoot down with the blankets around me to the end of the bed so that I could see out my window and look up at the billions of tiny flickering lights. The stars were fascinating and beautiful, but they made me feel so insignificant, I wondered if I would ever know what they were all about.

Who could have dreamed that in 75 years such brilliant advances would be made in science and technology that today anyone who owns a television set can take a look at the stars.

A major aid to our vision has been the Hubble telescope, which orbits 30 miles above the earth's atmosphere. The Hubble sends pictures back to NASA, whose experts relay them to astounded ordinary folk like myself. A newer aid is the Chandra x-ray telescope, but it has already sent back dazzling images showing remnants of a star's explosion.

Unfortunately, I often lose track of the images and their scientific explanations. Maybe it takes a more agile mind, like my man Leo's. (We're both in our 80s, but he's a photographer.) Still, I do remember one remarkable view in color of swirling currents that scientists determined to be the birth of planets in space!

I believe this is the kind of material that is truly worthy of the TV medium —and something the entire world can share simultaneously.

Which is what Leo and I did on July 20, 1999, the 30th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. We celebrated this awesome achievement by going to an exhibit at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. The museum now has on display (until Jan. 11, 2000) more than 50 photographs snapped by the Apollo astronauts.

NASA released rough images to Bay Area photographer Michael Light, who digitally perfected them for this gallery exhibit. The show includes lunar landscapes that have never been seen before, but there are a few familiar ones. The one I lingered over lovingly was "Earthrise," showing our tiny, water-covered home planet rising over the barren and inhospitable moon.

Leo and I had earlier celebrated another anniversary, but in a more casual, down-to-earth manner. On July 3, I arose early and stumbled downstairs to claim the front page of the paper over my mug of coffee. Soon Leo followed suit, burying his face in the Datebook section. I mumbled a "Happy Anniversary," but he said not a word.

We then exchanged sections of the paper. I went immediately to the page that holds my favorite cartoonist, Mike Twohy. The cartoon was especially appropriate that day. It showed the weirdest-looking couple imaginable, holding hands over a table and saying, "Isn't it amazing that in this whole big world we managed to find each other?" Then I noticed that Leo had written below in big red letters: "Happy Anniversary 1999." And it was.

At about 3 o'clock that afternoon, we went to Eric's on Church Street to celebrate. Since the restaurant is uncrowded at that hour, we had a leisurely dinner. I ordered my favorite dish—Eric's Spicy Eggplant—as I always do, but Leo, who prefers change, ordered something new: Chicken with Mango. I used to worry about this difference in our temperaments, but in our 58 years together, it has not proved to be a major problem.

So when he asked me if I wanted to go for 59, I answered "Sure." We may be weird, but we've really enjoyed our front-row seat in this crazy, inventive, exciting era! □

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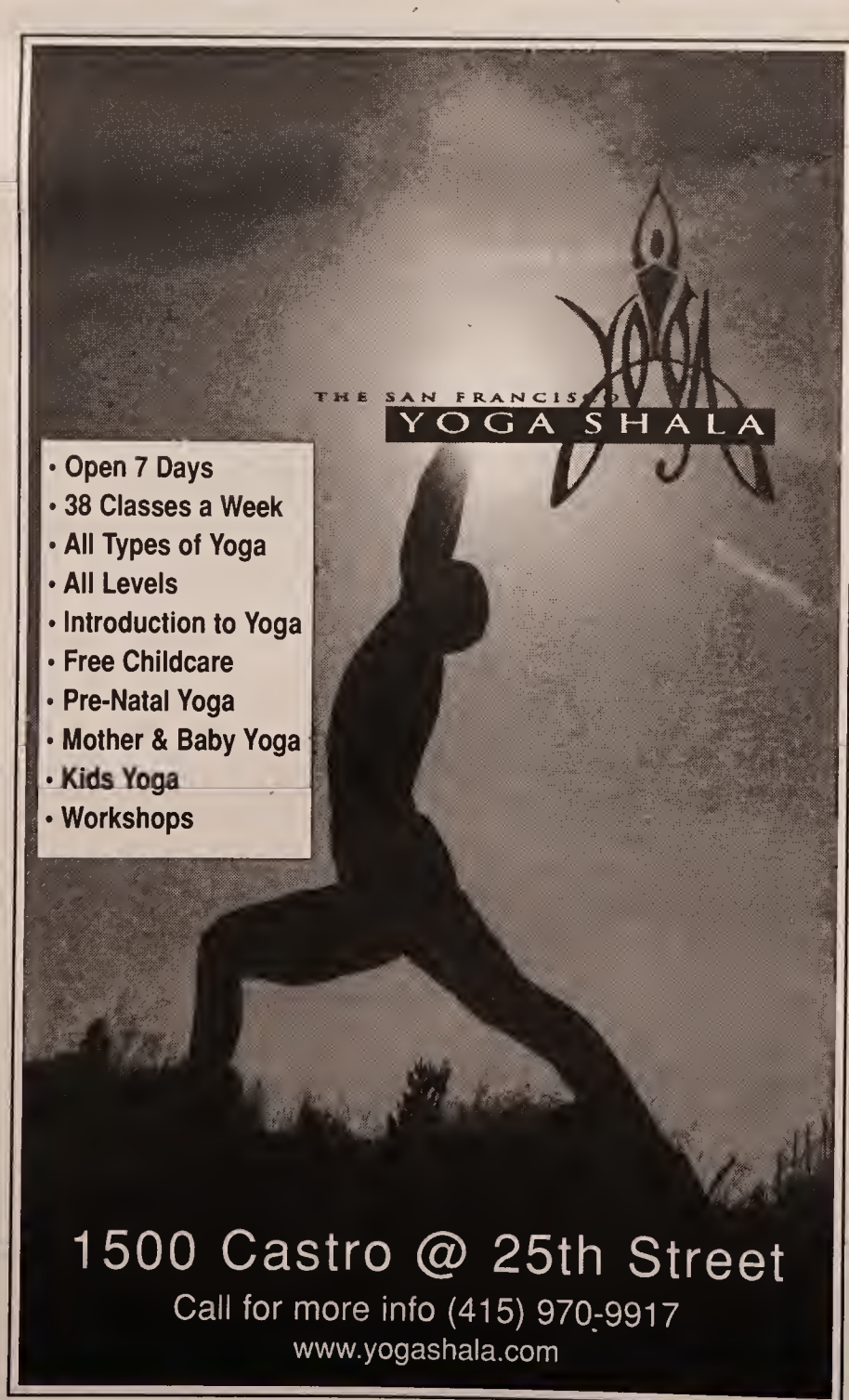

Classical Music Series Opens with Champagne Gala

By Jeff Kaliss

The Noe Valley Chamber Music Series, the classical concert series held in the upstairs sanctuary at the Noe Valley Ministry, often has the quiet serenity of a European music salon of the 19th century.

But this year's season opener—on Oct. 10, at 5 p.m.—will have all the buzz and excitement of Davies Symphony Hall.

The Gala Benefit Concert, the first of seven concerts lined up for the 1999–2000 season, "includes an auction, buffet, and champagne—the whole enchilada," says Artistic Director Karen Heather. "There'll be a silent auction first. Then we'll have a live auction for a few of the hot items, like a string quartet to come play at your house, or somebody to come cook dinner for you."

And there's the music, of course, to remind attendees what their ticket money—$50 for this special event only—and their auction bids are helping to support. (All proceeds benefit the concert series.) The trio of performers includes soprano Nicolle Foland, cellist Emil Miland, and composer and pianist Jake Heggie.

First they will do a Heggie song cycle based on poems by Gini Savage (the wife of Michael Savage, managing director of the San Francisco Opera). "And Jake has also written some pieces for cello and piano called *Coward/Cabaret,* which he and Emil will play," Heather says. "Then there'll be a Dvorak aria, and *The Shepherd on the Rock* by Schubert, with cello instead of clarinet. Emil will also play the Tchaikovsky *Rococo*."

That amounts to a good hour of music by three up-and-coming young talents. Foland is one of the San Francisco Opera's Adler Fellows and has performed with Placido Domingo and with opera companies in Chicago, Houston, Boston, Minnesota, and Bilbao, Spain. She also has sung *La Traviata* and Wagner's *Ring* for her home company.

Miland is principal cellist with the New Century Chamber Orchestra and a member of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and several other groups. He also has recorded, with singer/songwriter Candy Forest and the Singing Rainbow Youth Ensemble, an album of children's lullabies, *Speeney, Spawney, Go to the Moon.*

In his role as composer-in-residence for the San Francisco Opera, Heggie has emerged as a favorite songwriter for a bevy of opera singers, most notably Frederica von Stade. He's currently finishing a commission for a setting of *Dead Man Walking* (with lyrics by Terrence McNally), due to debut in the fall of 2000.

Heather points out that *Faces of Love,* a new CD featuring all three artists, will be available at the Oct. 10 concert.

Meanwhile, she assures audiences that the quality of performer and repertoire will continue throughout the season. "All of the concerts this year are going to be outstanding."

Next up after the opener will be a Nov. 14 appearance by the Empyrean Ensemble, performing Ravel's *Piano Trio* and a West Coast premiere by Hayes Biggs.

Then on Dec. 12, the group El Mundo, on baroque guitar and violins, will present "Villancicos de Navidad," Christmas music from Spain and South America.

Nicolle Foland, Emil Miland, and Jake Heggie will perform original works by Heggie, plus music by Dvorak, Schubert, and Tchaikovsky, at the season opener of Noe Valley Chamber Music.
Photo by Beverly Tharp

Heather also highlights two spring concerts. "In March, the Artaria Quartet is coming back to do Haydn's *Seven Last Words of Christ,* and the Very Reverend Alan Jones from Grace Cathedral will narrate. Robin Sutherland will do Bach's *Goldberg Variations* in May. That's his signature piece, but he's not played it live in the Bay Area since 1983. Robin's concert is actually going to be the launching of our piano campaign," she adds. "We really need to get a good piano in the Ministry, so we're going to try for it."

The series is starting its eighth season with "a definite core audience," Heather says. "This is the first year we've had a lot of advance subscriptions, and if we can get to a place where we sell a lot before the season opens, we'll be set. Also, we're crossing our fingers for Grants for the Arts this year. That would give us a real shot in the arm."

All concerts take place at the Ministry, located at 1021 Sanchez St., and begin at 4 p.m. (except for the opening gala).

Regular tickets are $10; $5 for students and seniors.

Heather notes that three concerts have been funded by the Bernard Osher Foundation and will include informal conversations with the artists. "But we encourage all the musicians to talk about the music and to take questions from the audience."

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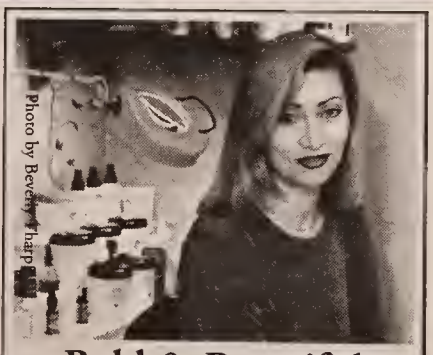
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Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m. Call for summer holiday schedule.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association
Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Thursday (except July, August, and December), Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors
Contact: Paul Nixon, 647-5183
Mailing Address: 163 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Call for details.

Fairmount Neighborhood Association
Contact: Susan Nutter, 285-8484
Mailing Address: 78 Harper St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

La Leche League of San Francisco
Contact: Thalia DeWolf, 641-8366
Mailing Address: 47 Costa St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: First Tuesday of month, Bernal Heights Library, Cortland & Moultrie, 10:15 a.m.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park
Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month, Glen Park Recreation Center, 7:30 p.m.

Friends of Noe Valley
Contact: Harry Stern, 821-1086, or *harrystern@aol.com*
Mailing Address: 327 Jersey St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:45 p.m.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association
Contact: Katherine Pietrycha, president: *Katherine.Pietrycha@wcom.com*
Mailing Address: 3288 21st St., Box 44, San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Executive board meets first Tuesday of month; general meetings quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Courts Coalition
Contact: Dr. Tom Mills, secretary.
Voicemail: 675-0110; *nichapin@aol.com*.
Mailing Address: Noe Courts Coalition, P.O. Box 460520, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: Irregular. Call for information.

Noe Valley Democratic Club
Contact: Dave Monks, 821-4087
Mailing Address: 1652 Dolores St. #6, San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Second Wednesday of month, 7 p.m. Call for location.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association
Contact: Robert Roddick, 641-8692
Mailing Address: Robert T. Roddick, Noe Valley Law Offices, P.O. Box 460574, San Francisco, CA 94114-6003
Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

Noe Valley Neighborhood Parks Improvement Association
Contact: Debra Niemann, 641-4934, or Krista Keegan, 550-9050
Mailing Address: 4171 23rd St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants
Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Monday of month, St. Paul's Church cafeteria, 3 p.m. Call to confirm.

Upper Noe Neighbors
Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Fourth Thursday of month, Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 7:30 p.m.

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CLASS ADS

Need a Baby Sitter? Teachers or students only. My home, 641-7916. Ask for Jana.

Housing Wanted: Active, responsible older woman seeks quiet, sunny share or studio. $450 to $650. References. Let's talk. Shan, 731-7351.

Part-Time Clerical Help needed for small construction company. Computer literacy and phone experience required. Fax resume to 415-821-1372 or mail it to S.C. & C., 5214 F, #430, Diamond Heights Blvd., S.F. 94131.

Bedroom Set includes a six-drawer dresser, two night stands, each with two drawers, queen-size bed frame with headboard, and large matching mirror. Dark cherry with light marble tops. $600 or best offer. 285-3924.

Hot Flash! Midlife Women's Groups in Noe Valley. Meet with women your age, supporting each other through the struggles, challenges, and joys of midlife. We are trailblazers and elders-in-training, redefining what aging means to us. Arlene Dumas, LCSW. 415-641-4553.

Empty Nest? Need something worthwhile to do? We need you! Call Beth Carroll to volunteer at Edison School. 970-3330, ext. 3027.

The Blankets for the Needy class makes patchwork blankets for abused and neglected women and children, and those formerly homeless who are now placed in "safe" residences. No sewing experience is necessary, and all supplies are donated. Call Kim Longenecker at the 30th Street Senior Center, 415-550-2214.

Homework Hassles? StudyBuddy can help: credentialed teacher, reasonable rates. 586-4577.

TLC Petsitting. Return home secure that your beloved pets have been cherished by mature, dependable Joanne. 510-834-1027.

Being Without *Your* Art is serious business; getting it back is unbelievable! The Artist's Way, Monday evenings, Noe Valley. Saturday mornings, Oakland YWCA. Susan, 415-206-0760.

Sincerely Yours Chores. Is this a time when you need someone for a handyman job, or an errand run? Honest service, small jobs okay. Call Scotty for an estimate today. 585-9064.

Senior Help. Light cleaning, cooking, shopping, personal care. No driving. Also 1 clean homes, offices, and schools. Bondable. Dorothy, 415-437-1666. $50 for four hours.

Make the Quilt you always wanted to make! Nationally renowned quiltmaker, author, and teacher Joe Cunningham will be teaching in Noe Valley on Monday nights. Call 648-4911 to register.

Couple Needs Bed Bath / Studio Apartment/ one bedroom apartment, parking. Dec. 1999 to Jan. 2000. Please call 831-624-8166.

Enrich Your Child's Life with unique original art: paintings that feature whimsical critters and quirky characters are a delight to the imagination. Call for viewing. Talk to Kara, 415-552-4585.

Noe Valley Psychologist describes his work in the fall issue of *Common Ground*, on page 118. Elliott Isenberg, Ph.D. 695-0499.

Happy Housecleaning. The best you can get for just $13 an hour. Call us: Sarah or Marco, 415-643-1262. References available.

Your Mother Visiting? House for rent, one to three weeks, $1,200 per week. December and January. Location: Laidley and Noe. Two bedrooms, panoramic views. Huge garden with jacuzzi. Contact Barry, 415-647-8216 or *barryz@ncal.verio.com*.

All Phases of Construction. Over 20 years of experience. MAC California Lic. #752127. Call Marcus, 305-5708.

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Office Rent. Potrero Hill communications agency has extra office space for two work stations. Clean, comfortable, creative atmosphere. Bring your computer, printer, and scanner or use ours. $400 per month includes weekly cleaning, copier, fax, phones, postage meter, and utilities. Call Kevin or Julie, 863-7220.

Home and Office Cleaning. Experienced, with great references. Reasonable rates. Call Ellie, 415-661-5941.

Housecleaning and Hauling. Move-in or -out. Carpet cleaning. Garage and yard cleanup. Excellent references. 510-236-2901, Denise or Wesley.

Occasional Driver Wanted: Need someone with comfortable car and flexible schedule for rides from Noe Valley to Redwood City medical appointments. Approximately 1 to 2 times per month. $15 per hour. 415-821-4518.

Need a Driver to take you grocery shopping, doctor's office, etc.? Retired dependable businessman is at your service. Excellent references. $10 an hour. Bill: 826-3613.

Office Space Available. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sunny, 12′ x 15′ room, great view. Upper Noe Valley, residential. $500 per month, or negotiable. Call Becky, 821-1449.

Learn French at Your Own Pace with experienced native teacher. Customized lessons: travel basics, pronunciation, business, grammar. All levels, for individuals or small groups. Reasonable rates. Please call Mylene, 415-467-9001.

Who Are Paul and Judy? They are experts at finding easy and fun ways to make a second income for people. Call today at 415-267-4891.

Ayurvedic Cooking Class. Come prepare and enjoy a delicious Ayurvedic vegetarian meal using the tridosas and a fall menu. We will look at the basic body types and foods appropriate for each. Participants will create a meal of tea, grains, vegetable dishes, and dessert. Sunday, Oct. 10, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. $35. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Charlie the Phone Guy. Residence and business telephone systems, fax/modem lines, office-in-home. Dead phone jacks brought back to life! Separate jacks for roommates. Free estimates. Noe Valley resident. Call 641-8654.

Midlife, A Balancing Act! New support group for women 40s to 60s. Find a safe haven of companionship, healing, inspiration. Geary Blvd. near Park Presidio. Jennifer Feeley, MFT (MFC35307). 415-244-7850.

Massage Office for Rent on Mondays and Saturdays. Beautiful space, Noe Valley location, fully equipped. 550-8940.

House Cleaning. Good references, professional, and available. Call 650-758-4817.

Group Therapy for Women with eating disorders. Food does not have to be the most important thing in your life. Overeating, throwing up, and not eating are not as impossible to overcome as they may seem. We now have openings in our women's group. You may find it helpful to relate to others who are working to gain control of their lives and their eating. The group meets Thursdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The fee is $30 per week. For further information, call Dr. Pat Sax, 415-661-7158.

Pilates in Noe Valley. Lengthen and strengthen any body with group classes and/or private sessions in beautiful Noe Valley studio. Also offering Prenatal and Mom and Baby classes. Call 648-4911 for more information.

Sunny, Large Office to Share for therapist or other. Available Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday, or Monday, Wednesday (days only). Near 24th and Castro. Available Nov. 1. Call Carla, 415-255-6394.

Telecommunications Wiring. Telephone, computer, co-ax, speaker, intercom. Home or business. Experienced, reasonable, reliable. Kent, 415-401-0214.

Business Manager. 25-year business management pro at your fingertips, on-call, as needed. Office—Locate and negotiate a lease, hire movers, organize office; Computers—buy and set up Mac networks and internet access, upgrades, software training; Personnel—interviews, screening, employee handbooks, payroll services, 401K plans, insurance benefits; Accounting—payables, receivables, invoicing, time billing, prep for cpa, lines of credit applications, business plans written; Promotion—publicity campaigns, advertising and web site design. 415-643-2800 or *mail@ hand-shake.com*.

Fog City Dog now accepting clients for canine exercise group. Noe Valley resident. Reasonable rates, senior discounts. Bonded. Lou, 824-9374.

Laughing Meditation. This fun workshop involves some Hatha Yoga poses, extended conscious laughter, followed by a silent meditation. Dress for Hatha Yoga, bring a towel, and expect to have a wonderful, fun time. Tuesday, Oct. 19, 6 to 7:30 p.m., $8. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Stereo Repair: Save time, money! Offering in-home repairs at reasonable rates. Formerly with Pacific Stereo, now serving the San Francisco community for 12 years. Evening and weekend appointments available. Thorough, conscientious, guarantee, references. Gene's Sound Service, 554-3688.

Artists / Performers / Writers at all levels: An ongoing support group, workshops, and individual consultations designed to enhance your creative life are available in Noe Valley. Call Robert Ressler, Ph.D., 415-289-2212.

Home, Apartment, Office ...Cleaning. Excellent references. Offering service seven days a week; you can count on me! Call Val, 415-643-8820.

Valdivia Family Day Care. License # 384000643. Serving ages 0 through 5. A safe and caring environment. Nutritious meals provided. Age-appropriate activities and projects. CPR and first aid certified; references. Six ECE units, two-year college degree, personal and job experience. 285-1166. E-mail *Heavens4.aol*.

Are There Things That You Want to Accomplish, but you're having trouble staying on the path or even knowing what the path is? Do you want to know more about who you are and how to live your values? You don't need a therapist, but a life navigator sounds good? Get a coach! Coaching is a professional relationship that enhances your ability to make changes in your life and to achieve desired goals. Your coach helps you to make an effective action plan, stay focused, and eliminate obstacles. Your coach provides structure, feedback, perspective, skill-building techniques, and powerful questions tailored to your specific needs. In the coaching culture, nobody gets to be wrong, and mistakes are seen as opportunities for learning. Call or e-mail for more information and a free sample session. Volant Coaching, Valerie Hearn, Ph.D. 415-824-3701. *vchearn@earthlink.net*.

Carpentry. Decks, windows, design—all aspects. 15 years experience, excellent references. Reasonable and local. Jeffrey, 753-1707.

Meeting Someone has never been *this* much fun! The Meeting Game. A new way to meet that special someone! Large salons monthly. 24-hour recorded info: 415-789-7887; *www.MeetingGame.com*.

Housecleaning Services. Available six days a week. Good references, a lot of experience, and reasonable rates. Please call me: Ana and Andre, 415-643-4924.

The Writing Salon's Fall Session of creative writing classes begins in October, and runs through mid-December. We offer 8- to 10-week courses and Saturday workshops in basic craft, fiction, poetry, essays, memoirs, screenwriting, and journalism. All classes take place in Bernal Heights (near Cortland Avenue, just a stone's throw away from Noe Valley, and accessible via the #24 Divisadero bus line). For more information call 415-642-9793 or visit our web site at *www.writingsalons.com*.

Short Form of Yang Style T'ai Chi clarified by Sifu Sam Tam. Thursdays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Noe Valley Ministry, second floor. For additional information call 821-3525.

Need a Housecleaner? Responsible. Ten years of experience, English speaking, California driver's license. References available. Call me! Christy, 650-757-7755.

French Tutor for children and adults. Beginning and intermediate levels. Conversation and grammar. Program designed to fit your needs. Serious and fun! Experienced, patient teacher studied in Paris and loves the language. First lesson free! *Chez toi ou chez moi*. 863-3574.

Housecleaning. Good references, excellent experience. Reasonable prices. Eliza, 650-991-3457.

Counseling: Start Your Healing Journey. Gentle, practical, individual and couples therapy by experienced M.F.C.C. intern. Sliding scale. Free 15-minute phone consultation. Lesbian/gay/bi/straight welcome. Noe Valley. Julie DePinna Armer, M.A., registered M.F.C.C. intern supervised and employed by Cate Potyen, M.F.C.C. Call 415-882-1161.

Time for Your Housecleaning. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, and periodic housecleaning available. Reasonable rates, free estimates. Experienced with references. 415-642-6168.

Professional, Ethical, Spiritual / Emotional Counseling. Clairvoyance, astrology. Experienced, affordable. By phone or in person. Free 15 minutes. Anna, 415-826-7190.

Quaint "Victorian Garden" B&B near 26th and Sanchez. Private and ground level, living room, fireplace, bathroom, bedroom with queen-size bed, office nook, flower-filled patio/garden, laundry facilities, phone, sound system, cable TV, plentiful breakfast items. Apartment is lovely and quiet. Two-night minimum. Call 206-0202.

Mac or iMac Computer? Need Help? I can...help you clean up your computer, get your computer talking to your printer and modem, set up e-mail and the web, etc. I am the tech coordinator at an elementary school. Evenings and weekends in your home. 641-7062.

I Love Housework! Thorough, reliable service and reasonable rates. Kate, 642-6073.

Kirtan / Chanting. Kirtan is chanting of spiritual mantras, sounds, songs, and names in the Sanskrit language. Accompanied by drums and other rhythm instruments, kirtan is the joyful spiritual path. Friday, Oct. 8, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. By donation. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Fluoride, Chlorine, Cryptosporidium water filtration systems. Sink, full house, and shower. 415-248-1869.

Bay Area Attachment Parenting supports families that share the Attachment Parenting philosophy. Do you believe in extended breastfeeding, share a family bed, or wear your small baby in a carrier or sling? Or do you want to learn more about this style of peaceful parenting? Join us for playgroups, monthly discussion meetings, and other community events in San Francisco and around the Bay Area. Contact Marie Stroughter at 415-821-2711 or *mrstro@aol.com*.

Sunday Evening Spanish Class taught by a native speaker. Teaching experience. All ages, all levels, beginners welcome. Learn while having fun, the language that will connect you with many countries. Please contact Maria Fe Jimenez, 415-824-1639.

Do You Need Housecleaning? We'll do it. References. $13 per hour. Call Marco and Sara, 415-643-1262.

Piano Lessons for Beginners of all ages. Noe Valley location. Creative, experienced teacher, graduate of the S.F. Conservatory. My house or yours. Call Eileen Mah, 642-0913.

Morgenstern & Son Hauling. Dump runs. Discount for salvageables. Free estimates. Call 902-8026 anytime. Small job? Pager Nick, 560-3637.

Home Heating Specialist. Warm air furnaces, ductwork, chimneys installed, replaced. Problem systems improved, quieted. Fifteen years serving Noe Valley. Licensed. Call Larry Fitzsimmons, 826-0308.

Easy Steps to Peaceful Living. There are easy steps to taking control of our lives which let us live with peace, joy, and contentment. This workshop will show these steps using the rich variety of techniques available in yoga. Tuesday, Oct. 5, 6 to 7:30 p.m. $8. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Gardening. Consultations, design, and renovations. Expert planting, pruning, and maintenance using organic methods. 626-1258.

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CLASS ADS

A Positive View. Counseling, psychotherapy, care management to help people manage eyesight loss. Home visits. Medicare accepted, negotiable fee. (Medicare Provider ZZZ36612Z, L.C.S.W. 14086.) Call 415-334-1984.

Furniture Wanted. I need old and antique dressers, tables, desks, etc. Any condition. Paying cash. Karen, 647-6157.

Word Processing (expertise: legal/medical). Audio/videotape transcription, editing, resumes, and letter composition, including complaint letters. 24-hour phone-in dictation system available. Dena Reiner, 415-821-4661.

Chanting to the Divine Feminine. Join us at the midpoint of Navaratri: 10 days of celebration of the Feminine aspect of the Divine. We will honor Her this night in singing and chanting many of Her infinite names and attributes from various cultures and languages. Friday, Oct. 1, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. By donation. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Bed and Breakfast, Noe Valley. 826-1158.

English Lessons (all ages) and tutoring (all subjects) for K through 5th grade. Credentialed teacher: Teresa, 415-863-1356.

Your Nest Egg May Have a Crack. Long-term nursing care for yourself or aging relatives could wipe out a lifetime of savings and create tremendous stress on family members. Medicare does not cover long-term care, and Medicaid will require that you "spend down" your assets. Financial planners and accountants recommend Long Term Care Insurance as the most viable solution. For third-party articles or a free, no pressure consultation, call Bill Hannant at 415-647-7012.

Housecleaning. Experienced. Excellent references. Own car. $15/hour. 650-992-0538, Gil.

Reiki—Nurture Your Soul: Heal your self with this gentle, sacred form of hands-on healing. Anke, R.N., Reiki master, Shiatsu massage practitioner. Both practices are strictly nonsexual, and you remain fully clothed. 415-346-4503.

Web Site Design. Original site design, including e-commerce: grow your site plans, make-overs. Don't pay an ongoing monthly fee for a half-page site with links to your competitors! Your own site for as little as $400 one-time fee, plus internet charges from $12 to $25 a month, including dial-up and e-mail boxes. Free one-hour phone consultation. HandShake, Ltd. 415-643-2800 or *www.hand-shake.com* or *mail@ hand-shake.com*.

Upholstery. We repair, rebuild, and recover overstuffed chairs, ottomans, sofas, and dining chairs. Free estimates, reasonable rates. Jorge Meraz-Baca, 282-2256.

Prenatal Yoga. Yoga stretches, breathing practices, and deep relaxation can assist you in maintaining an easeful, peaceful, and joyful pregnancy. Please call Elizabeth at 931-7291 to register for this class. Six Thursdays, beginning Oct. 14, 6 to 7:30 p.m. $48. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Relocating? We take the frazzle out of moving. From packing to setup, we handle all the details of your move. Call for a free consultation. ShipShape, 550-0658.

Licensed Painter. Small and large jobs. Interior and exterior. Also plaster repair. Please call Ed at 995-4666. License 497-214. Free estimates.

Vacation Room Rental, Upper Noe Valley. Clean, safe, comfortable. Ideal for visiting family. Sue, 415-821-4890.

Property Owners! Thinking about remodeling or adding to your building or constructing a new building? Get the creative input your project needs from an experienced architect. Call Mike Hager at 285-7409. In Noe Valley since 1981; 28 years experience.

Trees, Shrubs, Hedges. Professional arborist, neighborhood resident. Twenty+ years experience. Free estimates, reasonable rates. Call with any garden questions. Bill Squire, 826-6160.

Hauling. Schlepper Bros. Fast, fair, and fantastic. Yogic, caring, and brave. Y2K, sustainability activist. 824-4214.

Substance Abuse Counseling. Confidential. Compassionate, certified. Bernal Heights location. Eric Denner, M.B.A., C.A.D.C. 415-824-4541.

Dog Walkers Wanted! Must have car. Dog Walking Service of San Francisco: 415-731-0120.

Housecleaner Available. Good experience and excellent references. Michelle, 415-345-1122.

Bed and Breakfast in Noe Valley. Parents or friends coming, and no room for them? Have them stay in a lovely two-room apartment with private entrance and bathroom, fireplace, kitchen, antique furnishings. Convenient to 24th Street and J-Church line. Oliver House. 415-695-0700.

Telephone wiring and jacks for your home or business; 37 years of experience. Call Gene, 826-8419.

Guitar Lessons. Noe Valley, Bernal Heights. Former Pickle Family Circus music director, composer of Academy Award–winning film. B.A. Berklee, 20 years of teaching experience. All ages, beginners welcome. Fun, reasonable. Mark, 282-8244.

Looking for a 15-Year-Experienced, reliable, bonded housecleaner? Stop your search! Call KJ now at 415-285-3014.

Meditation Workshops. These are practical workshops that will enable you to begin earnest meditation on your own. A clear understanding of what meditation is, how it works, and how to make it an enjoyable daily experience will be presented. Tuesday, Oct. 12, 6 to 7:30 p.m. $8. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Stressless Housecleaning...because life's hectic enough. Superior quality. Customized cleaning. Free estimates. Call Jeanine, 564-2877.

Tutoring by a Credentialed Teacher. Need to catch up with your schoolwork? Study for a test, or write a report? Work on reading, math, or language skills? Experience with learning-challenged and "special needs" children. Custom designed programs. Your place or mine. 863-3574.

Up to $10 an Hour as a Housecleaner! Are you organized, responsible, and enjoy housecleaning? TaDa Housecleaning Services needs you! You must have reliable transportation, professional experience as a housecleaner, CDL, and references required. All jobs located in San Francisco. Call KJ at 285-3014.

Furniture Restoration. Complete antique and modern furniture restoration. Careful European craftsmanship. Expert refinishing. Custom upholstery, caning, veneering. Quality repairing. Competitive prices. Impressive portfolio and references. Free estimate, pickup, and delivery. Call Boris, 415-587-3416.

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Introduction to Hatha Yoga. For those who have never taken a yoga class. We will discuss, as well as practice, yoga postures, extended relaxation, and breathing practices. Bring a towel, loose-fitting clothing, and empty stomach. Tuesday, Oct. 26, 6 to 7:30 p.m. $8. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Living Tai Chi Chuan of Noe Valley. Emphasizing health through meditative mindful movement. Monday and Tuesday, 6 p.m., Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m., Douglass Park, Douglass at 27th.$5 introduction (Mondays excluded). Chris Sequeira, practicing since 1973. 650-756-6857; 415-773-8185.

Overwhelmed by Clutter, Bills, Closets? Professional organizing team to the rescue. We offer expert, simple solutions to what goes where. Desks, closets, relocations, garages, kitchens, filing systems, and more. Free phone consultation. Call ShipShape, 550-0658.

Handyman/Carpenter. Repair a door, hang a kitchen cabinet, remodel a closet, add a room, build a fence or a deck, or even trim a tree. I'm skilled and do good work at reasonable prices. Robert, 550-4055.

Cleaninghouse. Home, office, apartment, and apartment building maintenance cleaning. 14 years experience. Regular, one-time. Moving in, moving out? Spring cleaning! Roger Miller, 664-0513.

Pet Care. Does Rover need a pet sitter? Exercise? A ride to the vet? Positively Pets can help! Expert care for all pets. Ten years experience. Bonded. References. Senior discounts. 647-2463.

Transform Your Jungle into a paradise. Pruning, cleanups, planting, lawns, irrigation, maintenance. Call Jorge at 826-7840 for free estimates. Remember, it's pruning time.

Piano Lessons in Noe Valley: Learn piano with patient, supportive teacher. Lessons tailored to individual goals. Music degree and 20 years of teaching experience. Ear training, theory, classical or popular repertoire, MIDI lab. Barbara Bannett, 648-1007.

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The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the November 1999 issue, distributed Oct. 28, 1999. **THE DEADLINE FOR CLASS ADS IS OCT. 15.**

Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or e-mail at this time. But there's one consolation: The ads are displayed on our web site at no extra charge: *www.noevalleyvoice.com*.

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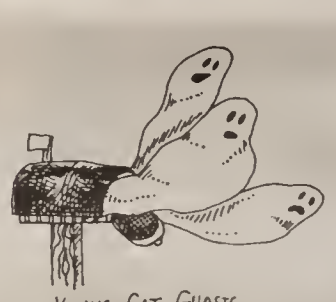

Words Wanted: *The Noe Valley Voice* welcomes submissions of poems, stories, and essays, particularly those with neighborhood themes. Payment upon publication. Send manuscript and self-addressed, stamped envelope, plus name and phone, to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

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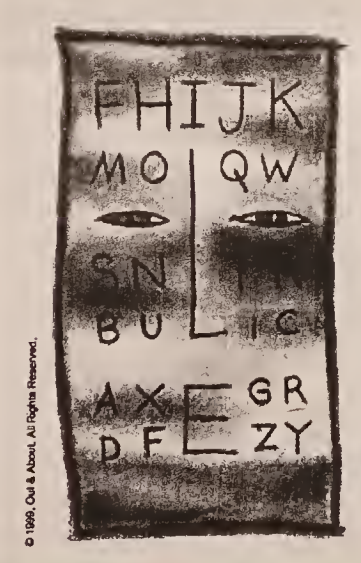

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RUMORS
behind the news

We're Off to See the Wizard!

By Mazook

WORD GOT OUT QUICKLY last month that author J.K. Rowling would be appearing Oct. 30 at Cover to Cover Booksellers (3812 24th St.) to read from and sign copies of her latest children's novel, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban.*

The book, Rowling's third, was released on Sept. 8, and Cover to Cover was offering up to three tickets each (to the reading) to the first 50 people who bought it. The store opened at 10 that morning, but the line started to form at 6:30 a.m. By opening time, it stretched around the corner and up Church Street.

According to Cover to Cover manager Tracy Wynne, all the tickets were gone within a half hour. Rowling's first book, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone,* released in the U.S. in September '98 (June of '97 in Europe), "has been the best-selling book we've had in the 26 years this store has been in business," says Tracy. Rowling's second book, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets,* has also been a big seller for Cover to Cover, a 24th Street mainstay for 17 years.

"I see kids that are 6-and-a-half and 7 years old, all the way up to adults, coming in for the Harry Potter books," Tracy adds. "It is really quite phenomenal."

So phenomenal, in fact, that Rowling was recently profiled on TV's *60 Minutes,* and her hero, Harry Potter, made the cover of *Time* magazine (Sept. 20) with the headline "Wild About Harry: The exploits of a young wizard have enchanted kids and adults alike and brought a new kind of magic to children's literature."

Cover to Cover will mark Rowling's only San Francisco appearance, so the store has had to set ground rules for the event. According to Tracy, the Scottish author will start her reading promptly at 10 a.m. and finish at 11. You must have a ticket for entry. "We even had to hire some security people," Tracy says.

Rowling will stay until 1 p.m. while signing up to three books per customer (personalized signings limited to one), although she will not be signing any European editions.

So how did Rowling select Cover to Cover for her appearance? "Well, when her first book came out, [we] were very supportive. I guess the publisher is rewarding us for our efforts," Tracy says. She went on to note that Cover to Cover rejected the idea of having the reading at a larger venue. "We wanted to keep it in the neighborhood, which has been so loyal to us."

Cover to Cover will also host some other notable children's book authors this month. Newbery Award–winner Christopher Paul Curtis will appear on Tuesday, Oct. 5, at 7 p.m., to sign his new book, *Bud, Not Buddy.*

The following evening, Oct. 6, the paper engineering genius Robert Sabuda *(The Moveable Mother Goose)* will be on hand at 7 p.m. to demonstrate his marvelous artistic talents. And then on Friday, Oct. 15, at 7 p.m., PBS TV star Bill Nye, "The Science Guy," will greet your kids and sign his new book, *The Big Blue Ocean.*

Those who visit the garden at On Lok's 30th Street Senior Services may enjoy the flowers even more these days, now that the senior center has won a $50,000 award from SmithKline Beecham and the University of Pennsylvania's Institute on Aging. Congratulations, 30th Street.

CONTINUING IN THE KID VEIN, it was fun, fun, fun for all the kids celebrating the grand reopening of Douglass Park playground on Sept. 20. Not surprisingly, the place has been jammed, jammed, jammed ever since.

There were also miles of smiles on the faces of local parents, especially those in the Noe Valley Neighborhood Parks Improvement Association. The NVNPIA had begged and cajoled various city agencies—particularly the Rec and Park Department and its representative Marvin Yee—to get the park upgraded. It also had solicited money from the community to help install the elaborate new play structure, donated by equipment manufacturer GameTime.

Miraculously, the park reopened after being closed for only three weeks—the amount of time it took the contractors and inspectors to remove the old equipment and sandbox, lay the new matting, install the new swings and climbing structure, and bring in 200 tons of new sand.

Douglass Park Director Steve Bell says, "I was amazed at how many different people kept everything on the fast track and running without a hitch."

The new drinking fountain should be spouting that Hetch Hetchy H_2O by the time you read this, and the new community billboard should also be in place on the wall.

Steve says they're still expecting another 50 tons of sand and preparing for phase two of the improvements. "I'm also hoping for two more picnic tables," he says.

According to Marvin Yee, there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the end of October, attended by a star-studded cast of characters. First will be the local luminaries from the NVNPIA, who have been working for two years to make this project happen. We'll all be able to ap-

Continued on Next Page

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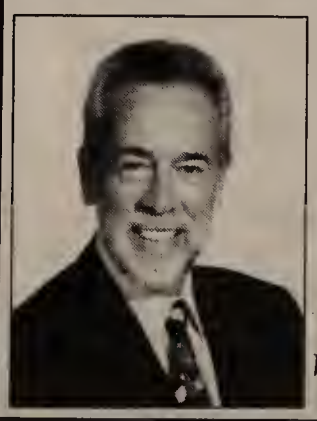

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RUMORS

Continued from Previous Page

plaud Krista Keegan, Debra Niemann, and Dorthe Deubler (who unfortunately for us moved to the East Coast this summer) for their tireless efforts. And then there will be representatives from Friends of Noe Valley (they donated $1,000) and the East & West of Castro Improvement Club (they gave too), not to mention the local realtors, who chipped in lots of dough.

Yee is hopeful that Rec and Park's general manager, Joel Robinson, Superintendent Audree Jones-Taylor, and other department staff will attend. Also invited are members of the Park Commission and, of course, Mayor Brown. (I am sure the mayor will not turn down such a pre-election opportunity.)

☎☎☎

PHASE TWO of the park renovation is what Debra Niemann wants to talk about, not the ribbons. "We still have to raise about $15,000 more," she says, "so we can build the other two play panels and install a new merry-go-round to replace the one lost in the renovations."

Evidently everyone has agreed on a new "whirl," which is guaranteed to make every supervising parent even dizzier than the old merry-go-round did.

Debra is also hopeful that Rec and Park will complete the remodeling of the bathrooms (for A.D.A. compliance) before the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Me too. After all, if they could rebuild a playground in three weeks, it should take them no more than three days to fix the restrooms, right?

And then can somebody please figure out how to keep the bathrooms open longer hours on weekends to accommodate the parksters who stay late? Now when nature calls, they either have to go home or use the bushes, since the facilities are open only when a director is present (11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays, and noon to 4 on Sundays).

☎☎☎

THE HALLOWEEN DAY PARADE of children on 24th Street should be packed this year, say Downtown Noe Valley insiders. The merchants have really been supportive in the past several years. Last year, probably a thousand kids went door to door trick-or-treating in some pretty outlandish costumes.

Then on Halloween night, it will be over the hill to the Castro or down the hill to Fair Oaks to see the adult parade.

To see which costumes are most in demand this year, we checked with the One Stop Party Shop (Church and 28th streets), where they take Halloween very seriously. (It's a great place to visit even if you're not shopping.)

According to One Stop's number one expert, Mardie Van Dervort (she opened the shop 11 years ago), the most popular costumes are Darth Maul and Queen Amidala of *Star Wars* fame. "I've run out of them both twice now, and the season is just starting," cackles Mardie. She says that Darth Maul's mask, costume, and light saber will run you about $60 at One Stop (which, if you shop around, still turns out to be a good deal).

Mardie says the next runner-up is *Austin Powers* (Mike Meyers' spy-spoof flick). But if Dr. Evil's not your bag, One Stop has more than 40 different costumes to choose from—in adult sizes too—at prices starting at 14 bucks.

☎☎☎

ONWARD AND UPWARD to Upper Noe Neighbors, who had their "picnic in the park" at the Upper Noe Rec Center on Sept. 25. Indian summer weather finally arrived in Noe Valley just in time for the affair, which attracted over 100 fun seekers. There were lots of snacks and a dynamite deejay from the Mission Rec Center (David Rodriguez), who set up amps and speakers and then rocked the house.

It was also the first time I've seen Rec and Park's very own "Playmobile," which was an instant hit. The director of the truck, Matthew Dudley, set up 15 different games, including table-top games and a soccer field. He even offered his face-painting services.

According to Dudley, the playmobile can be booked for special occasions. Perhaps Rec and Park can ask him to bring the playmobile for the ribbon-cutting at Douglass Park. Or better yet, how about a Saturday in November at Noe Courts?

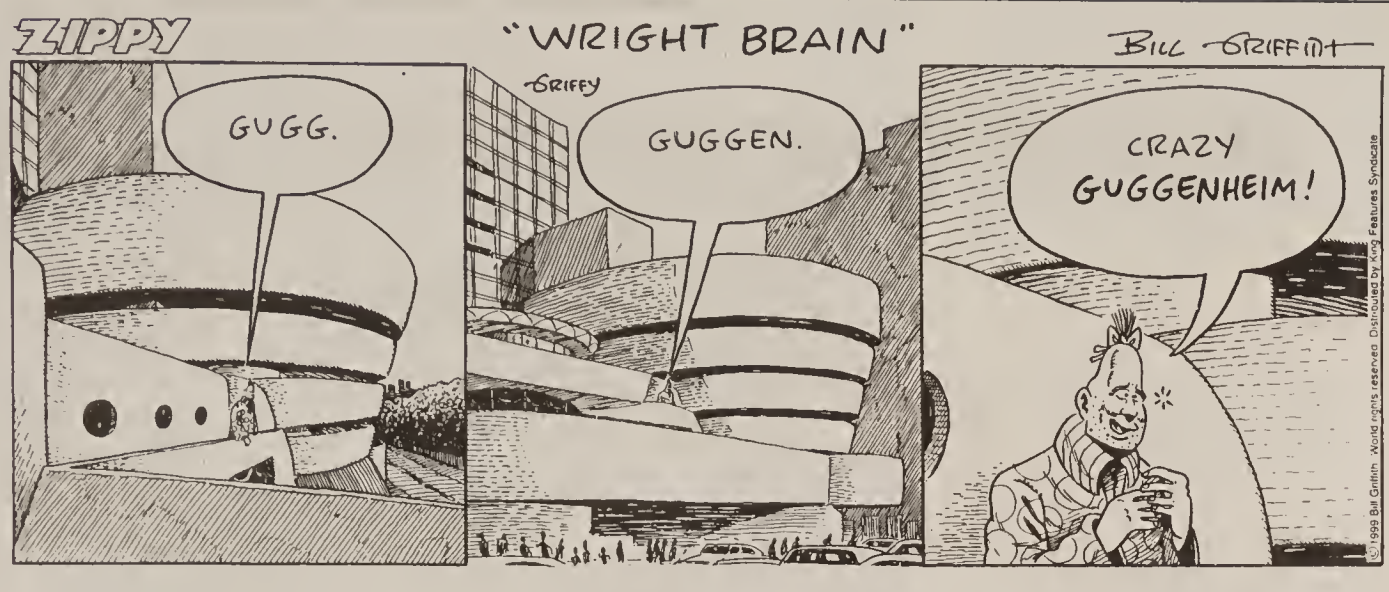
☎☎☎

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, you might want to attend the Upper Noe Neighbors meeting at Upper Noe Rec Center on Oct. 28 at 7:30 p.m. I hear that mayoral hopeful Clint Reilly has accepted an invitation to speak at the meeting, and Mayor Brown has also been strongly urged to attend.

You know the old political axiom about San Francisco elections: "As Noe Valley goes, so goes the city."

I suggest that this year, rather than holding a mayoral election, San Francisco should simply work out a trade with Oakland: Willie Brown for Jerry Brown, with Oakland getting a first draft pick next season.

I'm outta here, sports fans. Happy trails to you, until we meet again. □



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THE LAST PAGE

Two Short Stories About Basketball

BY DOUG KONECKY

1. The All-Purpose Word

I PLAY BASKETBALL every weekend morning at James Lick Middle School. It's a physical game, full of people half my age and twice my size for whom basketball is war, not fun. Every week I take a shoulder or two under my chin that brings jelly to my legs. Don't let sedate Snowy Valley fool you: this is one tough game.

I'm 53 years old. I've got no business running with these bulls. But I love it too much to quit. My wife and I moved from L.A. to Noe six years ago and the first thing I did, before finding a bank, post office, or school for my children, was ask around until I heard about a great pickup game. Everybody here feels the same way. Some of these guys have been playing every week, on this same court, for over 25 years. And some weren't even born when the game began.

A pickup basketball game is a world unto itself. You've got to learn a few rules, and the lingo. The lingo is easy: There are only two words, *shee* and *muh*. *Shee* is used at the beginning or end of sentences. *Muh* is the all-purpose word and can be used anywhere, as a noun, verb, adverb, or adjective, sometimes all in the same sentence. For example: "Yo, muh! You muh hacked my muh arm, muh! Shee!"

The rules aren't hard either. The first rule is Melvin. Melvin is 6′2″ and close to 300 pounds, and he's got volume. Whatever he says goes, because he will yell louder and longer than anyone else.

"Foul, Melvin."

"That was no muh foul, muh!"

"Shee, you elbowed me in the muh mouth, Melvin!"

"Elbowed you? That was just a love tap, muh! You don't want love from Melvin, you stay outside with the little people! Shee!"

A few years ago a Russian guy who didn't speak much English played with us for a few months. He kept getting everything backwards. He'd say "Hum!"

Melvin had to correct him.

"It's *muh,* Boris, not *hum!*"

"Is *muh?* You are sure, Melvin? Is not *hum?*"

"I'm muh positive, Boris! Shee!"

Boris got pretty good at it. Then one Saturday he just didn't show up anymore. Nobody knows where he went. But that's not surprising. We don't really know anything about each other, unless it relates to basketball.

Last New Year's Day I was reading the newspaper, and I saw a familiar first name—one of the guys had committed suicide and made the front page. It was really a shock, because Hayden had been playing ball with us just a short time before he died. We still don't know what happened. If this had been a women's group we might have known all about his interior life, maybe been able to counsel him a little bit. But all I knew about Hayden was: "Likes to spin, drive, go to either hand, good rebounder." I think he had two kids, but I'm not even positive about that.

Yet it's perfectly natural to us that we know nothing about one another's families, jobs, or even last names. That's rule number two: Don't ask. It's not important. The game is what counts. Is somebody a lawyer or a security guard? Doesn't matter. Do they prefer to go left or right? Important. Are they white or black? Not important. Can you rile them up? Important. Tangibles don't matter. Intangibles do. Rolando is intense, don't mess with him. Scoop is self-conscious about being short, try to make him mad. Tico is somebody who will always take the crucial last shot, and usually hit it. Get him on your team.

A pickup basketball game is a world unto itself. You've got to learn a few rules, and the lingo. The lingo is easy: There are only two words, *shee* and *muh.*

They all know I'm hypersenstitive about being the oldest player on the court. I get nonstop flak about it.

"Hey, old man!"

"Muh can't hardly walk let alone dribble!"

But when I hit a sweet little jumper from the corner?

"Shee! Muh can still score, I'll tell you what!"

Saturday after Saturday. It's how we measure our years. I head for my car armed with dreams for the week, smiling like a muh.

2. Intim-muh-dation

SATURDAY MORNING basketball at James Lick Middle School is really noisy. At some point during the morning Rolando will get furious at me for something or other, which will cause Scoop to scream at Melvin and Ramon to threaten to run to his car to get his gun. It never fails. And it doesn't mean a thing. It's the way the game is played.

Intimidation is to playground basketball what sauce is to ribs. You can eat them plain but they taste a lot better with some heat. It usually starts with Melvin's face two inches from Ramon's.

"Shee, muh!"

"Say that to my face, muh!"

"Can't find your face, muh! That your face or your booty?"

"I'll muh kill you, muh!"

"I'm quakin'! You see me quakin'? Shee!"

White, yuppified 25th Street, with its manicured Victorians and tony nail parlors on Castro, looks out its Saturday morning window and isn't so sure it likes what it sees. It doesn't matter that our game is completely mixed—Melvin, Tico, and Li are from the Avenues; Scoop, Sam the Sham, Roland, and his brother Mo all went to McAteer together; Kevin and Brian went to St. Philip's and their families have been in Noe Valley for 75 years—the neighbors perceive what they fear the most.

So every few months a cop car pulls up with his siren on, and one or two apologetic policemen shuffle over and tell us to please remove our cars from the sidewalk. That's what the words say, anyway. The cops are usually black, and what they communicate, with raised eyebrows and shrugs, is that they understand. Our game is a lot more of a sociological experiment than the neighborhood is.

But it's not racism that's the culprit, it's *muh. Muh,* especially when it's shouted at top-gun level, scares the hell out of people. But it has to be screamed because the louder it's screamed, the more force it carries. In our game, the biggest guy with the loudest voice usually wins the day.

That would be Melvin. Melvin is like Teddy Roosevelt, except he speaks really loudly and doesn't need no stinkin' stick. The worst part is when he hits the winning shot.

"Yeah! Yeah! Muh Muh Muh! I told you! I told you! I am the greatest! You can't stop me! Yeah! Muh Muh Muh!"

Ramon doesn't always take kindly to Melvin's strut. Ramon is shorter but heavier than Melvin. When the two of them stand side by side, they can divert fog.

Ramon had some problems when he was younger, and he's still got the glare and the attitude. Melvin's huge and loud, but even he wouldn't like to get Ramon any madder than he has to. But they both love to goad each other right up to that point.

Ramon drives the lane. He was probably a very good player when he was a hundred pounds lighter. He spins one way, then the other, and runs right into Melvin, who is standing firmly in Ramon's path like the base of the Transamerica Building. There's a huge thud and two loud *muhs.* Dishes break in a few houses across Clipper Street.

"Foul, blood!"

"You got to be kidding, Ramon."

"No, I ain't kidding, Melvin muh, you hit me cross my muh arm, muh!

"That's not your muh arm, Ramon, that's your muh leg. That *can't* be an arm!"

"Shee! Melvin you are such a muh!"

"Shee! Ramon, you are a muh-ing muh!"

"Muh-ing muh? Why, I'll..."

The cop car spins up on 25th Street, hits his siren. Ramon and Melvin stop spitting at each other and stare across the street.

"Good morning, Officer," Melvin calls, sweetly.

"You boys okay in there? We had a few calls."

"We're doing just fine, Officer," says Ramon. "But thanks for comin'. You have yourselves a nice day."

The cops stand there a few minutes, drinking their styrofoam coffee, until we can get the game going again.

"Muhs must be out of muh donuts," says Scoop.

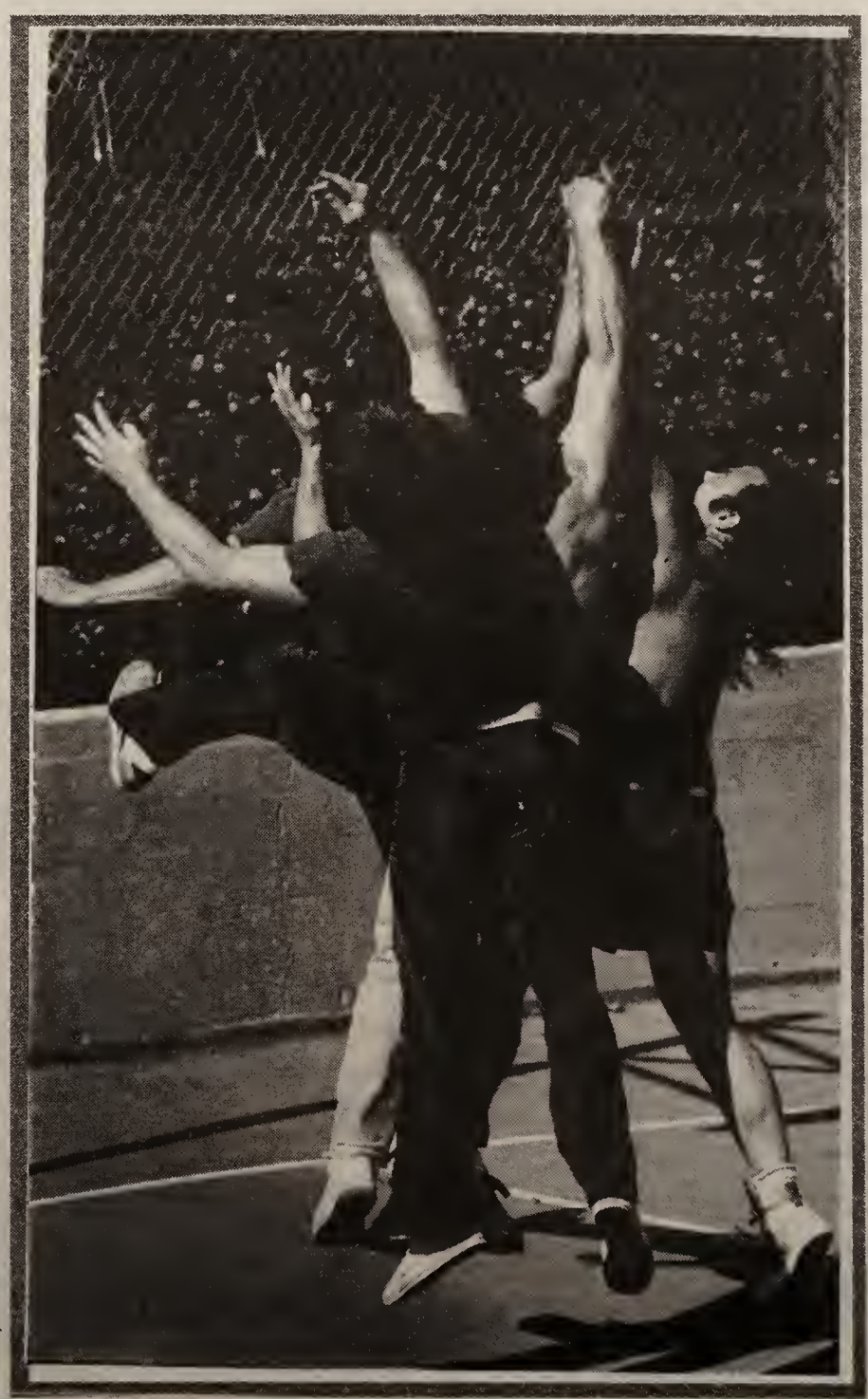

Photo by Martin Klimek

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